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# Daily Report

# Central Eurasia

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# Daily Report
## Central Eurasia

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### Russia: Yeltsin Interviewed on Reform, Elections, Friendships

*MM0406191496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Jun 96 pp 1, 3*

["Abbreviated version" of interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by unnamed journalist reprinted from ROSSIYSKAYA FEDERATSIYA magazine; place and date not given: "Boris Yeltsin: The Most Important Thing Is for Russia To Finally Opt for Freedom"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Time is moving fast. President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin has just granted an interview to ROSSIYSKAYA FEDERATSIYA [Russian Federation] magazine. The interview with Boris Nikolayevich pulses with the rhythm of the day and raises questions of concern to every Russian citizen. With the kind permission of the magazine's editorial board, we offer readers an abbreviated version of the discussion with Boris Yeltsin — president and man.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The impression was, Boris Nikolayevich, that you hesitated over the decision to run for a second term as president of Russia. Was this actually the case? And if so, what was the reason for your doubts?

[Yeltsin] I had no hesitation. I was reflecting. Not about myself or my candidacy, but about the fate of the reforms. And therefore the fate of Russia. My reflections were not easy. The reforms must be continued and "licked into shape" so they produce specific results. At the moment a restoration of the old, degrading setup is still possible.

There is still too much to be done along the road of transformations for me to feel easy about the future. And it is not my habit to leave a job half-done.

Furthermore, I knew — and I am seeing for myself right now during my travels — how many Russian citizens support me.

That is why I decided to run for a second term as president. Especially as I have no complaints about my capacity for work — it is still such that sometimes some of the people alongside me cannot keep up.

Unfortunately, at the moment I do not see any sufficiently strong and authoritative figures among the young politicians: experienced figures able to "withstand attack" and at the same time capable of winning people's trust. And without this it is impossible to continue the reforms. But I want to emphasize — that is just today. Tomorrow a new generation will come along. At the moment it is gaining strength and experience.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The Russia you took over in June 1991 and the Russia of today are in many respects two different countries. Do you prefer the Russia of today?

[Yeltsin] I don't think these are two different countries. In Russia today there is more choice and a greater degree of freedom than there was yesterday. The bans on the right to have your own ideas, on initiative, and on realizing your potential have been removed. It is important for Russia to finally make its choice, the choice in favor of its own freedom and therefore its own special identity that does not resemble anyone else.

Of course, it is very regrettable that the initial period of the reforms proved so hard for many people. But how could there not have been difficulties? Where is the magician who could immediately and effortlessly turn Russians' life into a fairytale?

Nevertheless, how much has changed over these years! People have received the opportunity to emancipate themselves — from the spiritual, economic, and political viewpoints — and no party committees are now meddling in their souls and personal lives and treating them as serfs.

Nowadays there are no more "sausage-hunting" trains to Moscow from virtually the whole country and the stores are full. The word "buy" has taken the place of "get hold of."

Of course, not everyone can yet exploit the advantages of the market economy. But every able-bodied person has the chance to realize their potential and choose a job according to their capacities, while pensioners' potential will increase as the potential of the economy grows.

The world has begun not only to fear Russia, but to respect it.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] It is said that the Boris Yeltsin of 1991 and the current Boris Yeltsin are two different politicians and two different people. Can you agree with that?

[Yeltsin] I have never suffered from a split personality. I have always been myself. But as a politician today I have exceptional new experience. I am grateful to fate that I have been the leader of Russia's movement along the path of reform. I have lost many illusions, there have been many disappointments, and I have encountered betrayal, but what is far more important to me is that there have been more successes along the exceedingly difficult path of reform and alongside me there have been wonderful, most interesting people working selflessly for the sake of a new, democratic, prosperous Russia.

Of course, we have made lots of mistakes and, of course, there have been plenty of people fond of seeking the mote in our eye. But as time has gone on it has become clearer that we have mainly been heading in absolutely the right direction — both in the economic sphere and in the sphere of developing democracy. We have been hampered, greatly hampered along this road, but clearly it could not have been otherwise.

No, you see before you the same Yeltsin, only with a wealth of new experience which certainly enables him henceforth to make fewer mistakes.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Almost no one is now left of the team with which you began the restructuring of Russia. Moreover, some of your former comrades in arms are attacking you from the right, others from the left. How could you yourself explain the ruptures, and do you feel bad about this?

[Yeltsin] Take a look at democratic countries, Britain, say. Remember the composition of the cabinet of Margaret Thatcher, and then John Major. Was everything peace and quiet there and was there always a united team? Did they sacrifice the interests of the cause for the sake of the "unity" of the original team? No. Now one figure left the cabinet, now another, and they were replaced by others.

To some extent the same thing is happening in our country. Furthermore, Russia is developing swiftly and we need professionals who know the present situation.

Of course, it was not easy to see someone cease to cope with their job, to see I had been wrong about someone and had overestimated their abilities and professional qualities, to see that someone had become so carried away that they had lost touch with reality, or see that someone had simply been consumed in the furnace of their own ambitions and was not doing their job, for the sake of the cause.

I will not talk about betrayal — it is very painful. Such people begin to oppose not merely Yeltsin, but often the cause we worked for together... But I am glad there have been so many cases of a different sort. Take Gaydar, he eventually had to leave the government. And in my view, even then he realized that the cause required this. Or when he joined the opposition in 1995 — this was done in a dignified, civilized fashion, just as it should be in a normal society. I could say the same of Chubays and others.

But some people were offended merely because the president had dismissed them from their post. I know such things can be hurtful. But all the same let the captain of the team decide who should be on the field at a given moment. There emerged something like a "party of the offended" with a single policy and goal — needling the president and taking revenge. It is both ridiculous and sad.... I feel sorry for these people.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Do you regard the difficulties entailed in the switch to a market economy as inevitable? Are the changes that have been made to the government this year just a change of faces or to some extent a change of course?

[Yeltsin] The course is determined by the president. That course can be judged on the basis of the decisions he makes. And those decisions are aimed at deepening the reforms and at ensuring that people increasingly appreciate their positive results. Take all the recent edicts — on mortgages, on implementing citizens' constitutional rights to land, on taxes, and many others — they all work in favor of reform, in favor of a positive practical return on reform, in favor of people.

Right from the start it was clear to us that there would be no progress if we still retained "state" property, which effectively belongs to no one, and people were deprived of the opportunity to own the means of production.

So privatization in one form or another was a condition for creating a healthy and efficient economy working for the sake of people and for specific tasks, rather than faceless "state tasks." Privatization was a question of vital importance. For the forces of the past as well. You need only recall how fiercely the Supreme Soviet attacked the reformers' plans to implement privatization. Without waiting for its consent, I had to launch this process with my own edict. If we had not done this we would simply have made no progress and our talk of reform would have remained mere talk.

Certainly, from today's standpoint, when the shelves in stores are full, finances are improving, we have almost curbed inflation, incomes are beginning to grow, and the economy has accumulated a certain potential, our errors that could have been avoided are more clearly visible.

However, it was simply impossible to avoid many difficulties. The legacy we inherited, the flawed, cumbersome mechanism of the expenditure-based economy, which consumes itself, the disproportions in the economy, the total militarization of the economy, and the fact that it was practically totally out of touch with people's needs — all this was difficult to overcome. Vigorous measures were needed. Such as the release of prices and the authorization of free trade. These measures could have been less tough if real reforms had begun earlier. But since 1985 there had simply been talk of the need for them. While the country was hurtling into the abyss. In May 1991 there was virtually no hard currency in the treasury, gold reserves were almost totally exhausted, and the foreign debt totaled $64.3 billion.

We did the only possible thing — we stopped the collapse by means of resolute measures. We could not do otherwise, or we would have destroyed Russia. It was painful, just as an operation is painful, but the malignant tumor was removed and gradual healing and recovery began. Now we have all the preconditions for economic growth.

I kept my main promise — that Russia would without fail get up from its knees. Today Russia has gotten up from its knees and is squaring its shoulders.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] After the breakthrough in reaching an agreement on a cessation of combat operations in Chechnya, do you think that this agreement will be brought to a successful conclusion?

[Yeltsin] This really was a breakthrough. In March I put forward a program to bring about peace in Chechnya and it is being implemented. I said that I would get the sides around the negotiating table and have done so. I said that an agreement about a cessation of combat operations would be signed. And it has been signed. I am sure that it will be implemented in full.

However, I do not duck the responsibility for the mistakes and miscalculations that were made during the conflict's settlement. Drawing lessons from this, we have been consistently implementing a program to settle the crisis for two months now. The negotiation process is now in full swing. We will see how the agreement on a cease-fire is implemented. In any case, we will not repeat last year's gross mistake and will not allow the gunmen to recover again after their keenly felt defeats. I must repeat that the politicians do not have the right to expose the Russian Army and civilians to danger once more and to allow civilians to become hostages of rash decisions. Any attempts to resume terrorist activities will be met with the harshest of retaliatory measures.

Like the majority of Russians, I have always differentiated between the criminal regime that seized Chechnya and the Chechen people. The criminal regime should be destroyed to protect the republic's population, restore the rule of law, peace, and order there, and for the sake of Russia's integrity.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] It is said that the price for reaching the summit of supreme power is complete loneliness. Boris Nikolayevich, have you experienced this? You have not lost reliable, loyal friends, who even now tell you the whole truth, have you? Do you manage to meet up with them?

[Yeltsin] This description applies rather to some dictator or despot like Stalin or Genghis Khan, for whom the sole reason for existing was to glory in their power. Might I hope that I am a rather different type of man and politician? I am a democratically elected president of a democratic country, who realizes that he has been given the trust of the people to lead the country for a certain length of time. This is all that I am.

If there is one thing I do not experience, that is loneliness. The great responsibility I have toward the country and people actually compel me not to distance myself from the people and withdraw into myself but to try to get closer to them. Including in my day-to-day work. I have been fortunate enough to work with and meet a great many wonderful people. I have made many new friends.

But I have never given up my old friends. We do meet now though, of course, a little less frequently, but I value these meetings all the more. We speak about everything without exception.

[At this point, a slightly longer verion of this interview carried by Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 June 1996, includes the following additional passage:]

[Khrenov] How are things in the president's family, at home? Is there any opposition at home? Describe your family circle — is there always harmony in it?

[Yeltsin] We have just been talking about friends. I would like to add that I have been very fortunate in that the members of my family are also very close, reliable friends, who are always ready to share my sorrows and joys, provide support, and help me. So there is, thank God, no opposition in the president's home. On the contrary, I have in it reliable people of the same mind as myself who are concerned about me and suffer on my behalf.

I have been with my wife for four decades now, since we were in the same class at the Urals Polytechnic. We are both from peasant families. We have two grown-up daughters and sons-in-law, two granddaughters and two grandsons. This is the Yeltsin family today.

Believe me that there is no greater joy when I come home than if we are all together. True, we do not often manage this: All of us have our own concerns, our own business, and I usually return home from work late, and leave at the crack of dawn. But it is a great joy when we are all together.

[End of inserted passage from ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI]

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Do you believe strongly that you will win the election?

[Yeltsin] I do. I am convinced that I will. I see that people do not want to turn back the clock, return to the past. Russians have acquired a taste for freedom and do not want to relinquish it.

We still have a lot to do: firmly establish democracy and a free market economy, beat for once and for all inflation, and carry out the restructuring of industry. We now have a good basis on which to accomplish these tasks in the near future.

But what is most important is that we ensure that those who want and are able to work can derive greater benefit from the fruits of the reforms so that those in need of social protection are also able to feel their results sooner.

The reforms in Russia must — and this is for the first in its history — be carried through to their conclusion. As Okudzhava [Soviet poet] said and was echoed by Zhvanetskiy — this is our last attempt to break through to a better life.

## Russia: Yeltsin Makes Pledges in Return for Miners' Support

*LD0506100496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0930 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin pledged to reorganize the coal industry into a modern and profitable sector of the national economy in return for coal miners' support in the upcoming presidential elections to be held in less than two weeks.

In his letter to the leaders and workers of the coal industry on Wednesday, Yeltsin said "the coal industry is vital for the country's economy. The industry needs constant and timely state support and I will personally monitor its provision."

Despite serious financial hardships caused primarily by the consumers' failure to pay for the coal shipped, coal miners continue to provide the country with coal. "This is also one of the most important stabilizing factors in the national economy," he said.

The president thanked the workers and leaders of the Kuznetsk coal basin, the largest coal producing region in Russia, for their support for his policy of reform and his election program.

Yeltsin expressed the hope that other coal producing regions will follow suit.

## Russia: Document on Army Campaigning for Yeltsin Cited

*MM0406134496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 1*

[PRAVDA Editorial Office feature: "Soldier, Write About the Supreme..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] As PRAVDA has already reported ("Vote for the President — Fall In!...", 17 April 1996), Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, drafted and Army General Pavel Grachev, defense minister, ratified a program to "prepare for the presidential election" in the Army. And industrious generals set about implementing it. A few days ago the editorial office received the following document.

### Telephoned Telegram

During a conference at the Defense Ministry's Main Directorate for Educational Work 22 May 1996 Lieutenant General S.M. Zdorikov set out the following tasks, which were immediately conveyed to the troops:

1. Call the units, all commanders must voice their position: "I vote for B.N. Yeltsin."

2. Authoritative people must be picked in every military collective (company, battalion, regiment, staff, and so on) who must carry out well-conceived campaigning for Yeltsin's election.

3. Brief personnel every day and use every opportunity to canvass for Yeltsin.

4. Create instructional information centers, which must issue prepared material every day on where Yeltsin has been and what he has said.

5. Explain to subordinates in the course of social-state training on the topic "The Supreme Commander in Chief" that they must defend their commander and campaign for B.N. Yeltsin.

6. Every soldier must write a letter home to his relatives saying why they must vote for B.N. Yeltsin.

7. Organize meetings between personnel and the senior echelon to clarify support for B.N. Yeltsin's candidacy.

8. Think out a system of incentives for personnel after 16 June 1996. Discharge into the reserve those who have completed their prescribed period of service.

9. Work separately with the following categories: a) officers, b) warrant officers, c) veterans, d) women's councils, e) members of servicemen's families.

Conduct the work on every floor of every apartment block.

10. Invite B.N. Yeltsin's agents to meet with personnel.

11. Draw up a precise schedule for comments by all categories of mass media, down to the division newspaper, on the subject of "Why I am voting for B.N. Yeltsin."

12. Galvanize the work via television, making broader use of garrison television centers.

**In Place of a Commentary**

There is nothing to add to the telephone message. Yet people are still saying that the Army is outside politics.

### Russia: Moscow MD Propagandizes Yeltsin Letter to Armed Forces

*MM0406150696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Aleksandr Oliynik: "To Every Officer, to Every Soldier.... At Its Sitting the Moscow Military District Military Council Discusses the Letter From the Russian President, the Supreme Commander in Chief, to Armed Forces Personnel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The letter from the Russian Federation president, the supreme commander in chief, to the Armed Forces personnel outlines the specific long-term program for the further development of the Army and Navy, the strengthening of their combat readiness, and the enhancement of the prestige of military service and the servicemen's social protection," Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, commander of the Moscow Military District, stressed at a sitting of the Military Council. The main task for the district's commanders and chiefs of all ranks today is to bring the main argument of this fundamental document to the attention of every officer and every soldier. The commander of the Moscow Military District set specific tasks for the commanders of large strategic formations, combined units, and units, and their deputies for educational work, and also for the military commissars of 18 oblasts of Central Russia and the city of Moscow, who attended the sitting, in terms of clarifying every provision of the president's letter, stressing at the same time that every commander and chief must personally take a very active part in conveying its content to people's hearts and minds.

Major General Yuriy Pronin, district deputy commander for educational work, told the audience about specific measures to clarify and publicize the Letter of the Russian President to Army and Navy personnel in combined units and units. He dwelt in detail on the work which has already been done concerning this policy document and what it is planned to do in the future.

It must be stressed that the Moscow Military District command, the commanders of the combined units and units, and the chiefs of military garrisons are currently conducting a great deal of work to clarify the essence and meaning of the president's letter among servicemen of various categories, the families of officers and warrant officers, and the inhabitants of garrisons, during which they are expressing their support for the Russian president, the Armed Forces supreme commander in chief, at the upcoming presidential election. Here are just a few facts.

Col. Gen. Leontiy Kuznetsov, commander of the Moscow Military District, together with Lieutenant General Vladimir Chuzhikov, commander of an Army corps, explained the content of the letter to officers of the Voronezh Garrison. While working in the combined units and units in preparation for the summer training period Lieutenant General Vladimir Zaritskiy, chief of the Moscow Military District Missile and Artillery Troops; Lieutenant General Viktor Koshelev, district deputy commander for construction and billeting of troops; Major General Yevgeniy Meychik, chief of the district's Communications Troops; Colonel Viktor Zavolozhin, chief of the district's Educational Work Directorate, and many others addressed the military collectives, servicemen's families, and veterans.

Active work with the president's letter is being conducted daily in the elite Taman Motorized Rifle and Kantemir Tank Divisions, the Yelnya Motorized Rifle Combined Unit, and other district units. Like everywhere else in the troops, the clarification work here is being headed by commanders of divisions and regiments and their deputies for educational work. Leaders of local administrations and activists from veterans' organizations are being invited to these meetings.

Specific tasks relating to the clarification and implementation of the president's letter have been outlined in a decree approved by the Moscow Military District Military Council. It notes that on the first day of exercises in the summer training period the main argument of the president's letter will once again be brought to the attention of the ranks of personnel, and in the future it is planned to make use of daily work with it in the interests of enhancing the combat readiness of combined units and units, rallying the military collectives, and strengthening the discipline and morale of Moscow Military District servicemen.

### Russia: Yeltsin Supporters Mount Demonstration During Zyuganov Visit

*LD0506114396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[By Yuri Khotz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNOYARSK, June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Emotions ran high among voters in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on Wednesday where communist presidential hopeful Gennadiy Zyuganov had to lay a wreath to the monument of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin with a slogan "Yeltsin is the president of all Russians" before his eyes and hundreds of residents waving Russian tricolor flags, a clear sign of support to Boris Yeltsin.

The slogan appeared right before Zyuganov's arrival and his communist supporters tried to pull it down, but failed as Zyuganov's opponents said they also had the right to express their opinion.

The communists hoisted a red transparency "Krasnoyarsk residents for Zyuganov" near the monument several hours before Zyuganov's arrival and a short squabble occurred between them and democratic voters there.

The democrats said the communists had no right to speak on behalf of the whole population of the city. Attempts to pull down the pro-Yeltsin slogans were abandoned when hundreds of demonstrators with Russian tricolors and slogans backing incumbent president appeared.

The incident was quickly exhausted as Zyuganov laid flowers and retreated. The slogans and the transparency remained untouched.

## Russia: Presidential Candidate Tuleyev To Quit in Favor of Zyuganov

*LD0506075596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[By Yuriy Khots]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNOYARSK June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Presidential hopeful Aman Tuleyev is going to quit the race on Saturday [8 June] and call on his supporters to back communist candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov, according to Zyuganov himself.

The communist leader announced that during his campaign trip to the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on Wednesday.

Tuleyev is a leader of the south Siberian Kemerovo coal region and openly backs the communist party without being its official member. His plans to campaign and then quit in favour of Zyuganov were known yet when he was registered for the June 16 polls.

Tuleyev, who is viewed as the most probable prime minister in Zyuganov's government, is currently campaigning in the republic of Bashkiria.

The Central Election Commission warned those candidates who would withdraw from the presidential race that they would have to pay back all the money allocated by the state for their campaign needs.

## Russia: Zyuganov: 'Today We Have No Free Press'

*LD0506132996 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0518 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In our program entitled "Meet the Next President" today and tomorrow all the candidates speak on the subject of power and the media. This morning you heard the views of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and now we are talking on the same subject to Gennadiy Zyuganov.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] We have never had the kind of censorship we have today. At least not in my lifetime. Before, one could of course get a phone call from the regional committee [of the Communist Party] with some expression of displeasure and some criticism, but now! In some offices, people are being called in every morning and given precise instructions on who to approach, what interview to take, and through which channel to broadcast it — and in the evening they are being assessed on their performance. Also, they have now put an economic leash on journalists as never before. Look at the mood of those guys who have had their entire video reports taken away and never shown.

Today we have no free press. We have an ugly nonsense focusing on violence and depravity and not even informing the people about real events. Every day we come across some forgeries. The mass-circulation KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper said the Communist Party of the Russian Federation had adopted an economic manifesto. But why didn't they make any reference to what plenum or congress this manifesto had adopted at, who had discussed it, and when it had been passed? They have never seen this so-called manifesto and they could not have seen it. It would be better if they did not publish all this rubbish.

We are completing the preparation of our manifesto and we have announced quite openly that we have discussed it, we will adjust it in the near future, and will possibly publish it. If you sue every time, you will simply be exhausted. If you believe that news agency should circulate falsehoods, then — excuse me, these are no mass media. These are mass disinformation media and psychological warfare media. This is what they are increasingly turning into.

Everyone talks of democracy. This presupposes that all the candidates should have equal access to the media. But you wake up every morning with Boris Nikolayevich and go to sleep at night with him. The only comfort is, they will surely overdo it. Everyone is already sick of this propaganda and even propaganda is not quite the right word.

We stand for more democracy in public life, for a multiparty system — and there are bound to be several parties in a mixed economy, for open and fair competition between the parties on the radio and on television, with laws on the media being strictly observed. We stand for full freedom for journalists to express their views, but journalists should not be above the law either. [end recording]

### Russia: Zyuganov Invites 'Third Force' To Join Government

*LD0506074996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0634 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[By Yuriy Khots]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNOYARSK, June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Presidential candidate from the bloc of people's patriotic forces Gennadiy Zyuganov who is the leader of the Russian Communist Party, reiterated on Wednesday [5 June] his invitation to "the third force" leaders to join a future government if he wins the elections.

On arriving in Krasnoyarsk today, he explained in an interview with Itar-Tass that the invitation to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Svyatoslav Fedorov and Aleksandr Lebed is "a very serious and responsible move".

The Communist Party leader said in Novosibirsk on Tuesday for the first time that he would like to see politicians who are usually referred to "the third force" in "a people's confidence government" if he is elected head of state.

Elaborating on this idea in Krasnoyarsk, Zyuganov added that "we believe that they are backed by some real forces. They have respect for their Homeland and a desire to help it.

"We would like nobody to suspect us of working single-handed. If they are against the present course, we are ready to pool our efforts."

Zyuganov specified that the invitation is addressed not only to the three presidential candidates. He would like to see Stanislav Govorukhin (Eds: prominent film director in the past and ardent politician now) and Sergey Glazyev (Eds: close aide of Lebed) among members of "a people's confidence cabinet".

### Russia: 'Spiritual Heritage' Congress Backs Zyuganov

*MK0506111196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "'Spiritual Heritage' Supports Zyuganov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Second Congress of the "Spiritual Heritage" All-Russian Movement, held at the "Sodruzhestvo Akterov Taganki [Taganka Actors Community]" theater, brought together not only the delegates from this public-political organization, but also delegates from the capital's leading banks — mainly the heads of the information and analysis departments. Among the latter one could see the familiar faces of several state security generals who got their discharges comparatively recently, but who have retained good connections at the Lubyanka.

Aleksey Podberezkin, "Spiritual Heritage" Central Council chairman, and State Duma International Affairs Committee deputy chairman, who opened the congress, read out greetings sent in to the gathering by State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev and CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader Gennadiy Zyuganov.

It was pointed out in the keynote report that "Spiritual Heritage" has proven to be a real public-political force. At the present time the movement is directly represented in the State Duma by seven deputies. Furthermore, a number of CPRF deputies are also "Spiritual Heritage" members. Not only does this emphasize its prestige, but it also attests to the fact that this is an effective tool for participation in "big-time politics," as well as for the promotion of the ideology of state patriotism within it.

In January 1996, the "Spiritual Heritage" Central Council came forward with an initiative to nominate Gennadiy Zyuganov for the position of Russian Federation president and formed a pressure group that is registered with the Central Electoral Commission, and which collected the requisite number of voters' signatures. Aleksey Podberezkin's extensive connections in the Defense Ministry, the FSB [Federal Security Service] and law enforcement bodies were used by Zyuganov to establish contacts and relations with generals of the power ministries and departments.

In all likelihood it was via "Spiritual Heritage" that Gennadiy Zyuganov managed to establish links with the major commercial banks that use the method of "sheaf financing [veyernoye finansirovaniye]" of those presidential candidates whose election chances seem to be the most fair.

As for what delegates and major functionaries of the Communists' State Duma faction were saying, it was not exceptionally original; it boiled down to stigmatizing the "anti-people regime" and the "venal mass media." Nikolay Gubenko alone made a brilliant display of originality by praising the humanness of Gennadiy Zyuganov who, it transpired, shows compassion for picketers carrying anti-communist slogans. Each time he is on the campaign trail in the regions he asks the local authorities to send in a Special-Purpose Militia Detachment to protect the scanty crowds of Yeltsin supporters from the ire of the pro-Communist marchers welcoming the CPRF leader.

The congress participants passed a resolution "On Supporting the Candidacy of Gennadiy Zyuganov at the Elections for President of Russia."

### Russia: Zyuganov Aide Says Army To Vote for Opposition, Denies Coup

*BR0306135496 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 2 Jun 96 p 15*

[Unattributed interview with former Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Vladislav Achalov in Moscow; date not given: "Zyuganov's 'Defense Minister' Vladislav Achalov Speaks: 'We Generals Versus Czar Boris'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — "The patriotic forces have no secret divisions or special security corps ready to intervene. We are not planning the scenario of an illegal seizure of power," as claimed by Yeltsin's adviser Georgiy Satarov.

This was how General Vladislav Achalov — deputy defense minister in 1991 and head of the militia forces of the "rebel" Supreme Soviet in October 1993 — replied to the charges leveled at the communists by the president's entourage.

Tall and heavily built, with hands that look like two great claws, Achalov is in practice the shadow defense minister of the communist alignment and is head of the all-Russian officers' assembly — "with 60 offices throughout Russia" — an organization comprising military leaders, part of the alliance that supports Gennadiy Zyuganov, the communist candidate in the 16 June presidential elections.

[IL MESSAGGERO] General, the approach to the elections is full of venom. Everyone is accusing their adversaries of planning a coup. What is the Army doing?

[Achalov] It feels humiliated and insulted. Never since the defeat suffered at the hands of Japan in 1905 have the Russian Armed Forces experienced such humiliation. Military personnel are badly paid and worse commanded, and are paying for the mistakes of politicians and an inept group of officers who jumped on the president's bandwagon. This is why they [the Armed Forces] are aligned with the opposition.

[IL MESSAGGERO] What does that mean?

[Achalov] That they will vote for the opposition candidates. Mostly for Zyuganov, with the rest divided between Zhirinovskiy and General Lebed.

[IL MESSAGGERO] How do you know that: Have you conducted your own opinion surveys?

[Achalov] Members of the military come to visit me here from all over Russia, including Chechnya. All day long I have talks with officers, including those responsible for monitoring the mood of the troops. My sources are reliable.

[IL MESSAGGERO] Will they vote through the ballot boxes or with their weapons?

[Achalov] Through the ballot boxes, as long as there are no provocations. As I told you, we have no secret armed divisions. But we are supported by many, many people who worked in forces structures (the Army, Interior Ministry troops, the secret services — IL MESSAGGERO editor's note). People who have reached the end of their patience, who are itching to do something.

[IL MESSAGGERO] How is the cease-fire agreement in Chechnya regarded by the officers with whom you are in contact?

[Achalov] As a preelection move by Yeltsin. Otherwise, why was a dialogue not conducted with the Chechen leaders three months ago? This war should not have been waged, and the blame lies with Yeltsin and his defense minister. But once it was begun, it should have been ended somehow. This is why the shooting will soon resume in Chechnya.

[IL MESSAGGERO] Last, who will win the presidential elections?

[Achalov] Zyuganov, as long as there is no fraud. [Achalov ends]

More venomous threats.

### Russia: Chernomyrdin on Coalition Possibility, St. Petersburg Polls

*LD0406195196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[Video report from Moscow by correspondent Vitaliy Trubetskoy, including recordings of remarks by Russian

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and unidentified questioners — from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Trubetskoy] [video shows Viktor Chernomyrdin on inspection, looking at equipment] Viktor Chernomyrdin today categorically denied rumors that Moscow plans to replace Doku Zavgayev as head of Chechnya and appoint another leader in his place. During a visit to an exhibition of road equipment in Moscow Region, the prime minister declared he has no such plans.

[Chernomyrdin] Why? Where is the need for that? He's only just been elected, and elected by almost the whole people in his republic. Above all, the Chechnya program [few words indistinct] the measures which Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] has endorsed.

[Correspondent] The prime minister also announced that he plans to meet Zavgayev in person on Wednesday to discuss an action plan with him.

Touching on the elections, Viktor Chernomyrdin declared that Zhirinovskiy's idea of compromise and creating a coalition government, in which Zyuganov and others would take part, could be viable.

[Chernomyrdin] It is wholly possible for our country. I, for example, am prepared to work with anybody, of any orientation, as long as the people are professionals.

[Unseen questioner] Does it not matter whether they are red or white?

[Chernomyrdin, laughing] They will all turn the same color afterwards!

[Woman's voice] Green!

[Chernomyrdin] A normal color! They will all be a normal color!

[Correspondent] Commenting on the results of the governor elections in St. Petersburg, the prime minister did not conceal his satisfaction.

[Chernomyrdin] Representatives of the same leaning landed up in the final round, both are democrats, both have worked — the mayor and his first deputy. So Petersburg citizens themselves chose the better of the two.

[Correspondent] Chernomyrdin did not openly declare his preferences, but was glad that the new governor, Yakovlev, has already started to make active preparations for 16 June. In the prime minister's opinion, the St. Petersburg elections are a model for the whole of Russia, which ideally should should choose between the good and the best, and not gamble with its future.

## Russia: Duma Official Accuses Grachev of Violating Election Law

*LD0406133796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 4 (Interfax) — The Central Electoral Commission should react towards a violation of the law on elections made by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, chairman of the State Duma Legislative Affairs Committee Anatoliy Lukyanov (Communist Party) said commenting on Grachev's statement voiced on June 3. The statement says that having held an early vote, the personnel of ships and submarines assigned to Russia's Navy and which are far from Russia's coasts fully backed candidacy of incumbent President Boris Yeltsin.

Acknowledging that the law permits holding an early vote, Lukyanov said that its results cannot be known before 10:00 p.m. of June 16, the time the ballot-boxes are to be opened.

Lukyanov believes there may be one of two violations of the law bearing in mind Grachev's statement: either the ballot-boxes on the ships were opened before the established time or the fleet command ordered servicemen to vote for Yeltsin and reported this to Grachev.

In any case, Grachev's statement may serve as a basis to invalidate the early vote on naval vessels, Lukyanov said.

"If the Central Electoral Commission does not do this then the State Duma will find how to properly react to Grachev's statement at its plenary session on Wednesday," Lukyanov said.

## Russia: Murdered Official Had 'Serious Quarrel' With Bryntsalov

*MM0406115196 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Yelena Loriya: "Killed After Falling Out With Bryntsalov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Moskalets, head of the Saltykovka settlement administration, was killed yesterday at around 0830 hours near his home in the Moscow Oblast city of Balashikha. Vladimir Ivanovich had left his home and was getting into his official vehicle. As the automobile drove onto the highway a man ran out of the forest wearing camouflage gear and a mask and began firing at the vehicle at pointblank range. Seriously injured, Moskalets managed to tell the driver: "Drive to the hospital!" But he died on the way from his wounds.

In a few days Vladimir Moskalets was to have celebrated his 38th birthday. He was married and leaves a little daughter. The motive for the crime is unknown at the moment. But we were told by the Moscow Oblast Internal Affairs Main Administration that this was undoubtedly a contract killing. Everyone in the village is now saying that last week Moskalets had a serious quarrel with [Russian Federation presidential candidate] Vladimir Bryntsalov.

### Russia: Doubt Cast on Veracity of Proregime Polls

*MM0506090196 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 3*

[Report by Yemelyan Yuryev of the Independent Electoral Monitoring Service, under the "Rating the Ratings — 3" rubric: "Very Sharp Curve"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the request of the editorial office, experts from the Independent Electoral Monitoring Service are continuing to analyze preelection materials published in the mass media.

The closer election day approaches, the more intensively all manner of sociological data about the electorate's sympathies for particular candidates is carried by the press. At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of reservations and justifications with which the sociological services associated with the regime accompany their information about Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's rating, which is aspiring to transcendental heights.

On Sunday, the scientific community and those close to it were once again amused by the Russian Public Opinion and Market Research Institute [ROMIR], via the medium of Yevgeniy Kiselev's "Itogi" program. It reported that in the past week its notorious rating of the incumbent president, which had just started to fall slightly, is up again, and has reached 35 percent. At the same time the popularity rating of his main opponent, Gennadiy Zyuganov, has fallen so low (according to ROMIR) that even Communists are apparently refusing to vote for the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] and candidate from the people's-patriotic forces. Otherwise how can you explain the "feeble" 24-percent support which the candidate from the unified opposition apparently has.

Also of interest is another wave of sociological information generated by another service which has become famous for producing outstanding ratings for the incumbent. This is the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions [VTsIOM]. Following the publication in our previous "Rating the Ratings" of comparative information about the real results of the 1995 parliamentary elections and the VTsIOM preelection forecasts published in the Russian press (which in practice turned out to differ from reality by a factor of 1.5-2), some very curious responses appeared in certain publications.

Thus, for example, Saturday's KOMMERSANT-DAILY announced that, despite everything, on the eve of the 1995 parliamentary elections "the VTsIOM forecast proved to be the most accurate." Not, admittedly, the one that was printed in Russia, but the one that was published "in the Spanish paper EL PAIS the Saturday before the elections." Thank God that at least the readers of Spain's EL PAIS — rather than, for example, Costa Rica's EL MAIS — found out the truth about the correct forecasts of VTsIOM.

It must be said that the VTsIOM's publication of "superoptimistic," to put it mildly, popularity ratings for the party of power (for the third election campaign in a row, incidentally) is leaving its mark on this center's reputation.

Even Moscow's SEGODNYA, which is loyal to the authorities (it is close to the well-known "Most" group), has been forced to accompany its latest publication of VTsIOM data under the headline "Optimism Among Boris Yeltsin's Supporters Increasing All the Time" with the ironic rubric "Faith" and a special editorial commentary.

It is so indicative that it is worth citing in detail. And so, how are the actual publishers of the ratings reacting to this type of sociological data?

"The ever-increasing optimism which the results of all the recent polls are instilling in Boris Yeltsin's supporters is perhaps excessive. First of all, we must remember the warnings of the sociologists themselves: Polls, election result forecasts, and particularly those results themselves are very different things, and, as has frequently been the case in the past, they may even contradict one another. Second, a very sharp rise in Boris Yeltsin's popularity rating based on the results of the latest polls is becoming discernible. We do not doubt VTsIOM's reliability, but sociology is a very subtle science, and Russian sociology even more so." (SEGODNYA, 1 June)

Even Yeltsin's supporters find it hard to pretend that they believe in the soundness of VTsIOM's optimism.

It must be said that such deviations from the official line of Boris Yeltsin's radiant election prospects are to be seen not just in SEGODNYA.

Thus, the leaders of the Association of Regional Organizations of the Democratic Party of Russia "In Support of Boris Yeltsin" informed journalists of a truly sensational piece of news a few days ago. It seems that the heads of only 49 of the 89 regions of Russia support Yeltsin. It turns out that today almost half of even the presidential appointeees prefer to distance themselves from presidential candidate and current head of state Boris Yeltsin.

Furthermore, at a time when Boris Nikolayevich is making loud statements about his readiness to win in the first round (!), the leader of the association supporting him considers that "losing to Gennadiy Zyuganov by 3 percent in the first round" would be a success for Yeltsin. Then something quite appalling followed at a news conference. There was public discussion of the following seditious scenario of the development of events: Yeltsin's defeat in the first round "by a big disparity (10 or more percent)".

A large number of regional popularity ratings for the leading contenders for the presidential post have been published in the past week.

This is how sympathies for the two main presidential candidates — Zyuganov and Yeltsin — are distributed in various regions of Russia, judging by data from local sociological services published in the press in the past few days (the relative proportion of those polled who preferred one candidate or the other, within the total number of respondents, is cited):

| Region | G.A. Zyuganov | B.N. Yeltsin |
|---|---|---|
| Lipetsk city | 40 percent | 18 percent |
| Novosibirsk city | 20 percent | 18 percent |
| Bashkiria | 33 percent | 23 percent |
| Gornyy Altay | 29 percent | 21 percent |
| Kaliningrad Oblast | 26 percent | 28 percent |
| North Ossetia | 34 percent | 26 percent |
| Tver Oblast | 42 percent | 27 percent |

So it transpires that, irrespective of the selection of individual pieces of it by the experts from the proregime mass media, the electoral mosaic is forming a picture which is in many respects a surprise to these "experts," and contrary to the initial propaganda outlines.

## Russia: Polls Put Yeltsin Ahead in Presidential Election Race

*LD0506090196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting various polls, Dmitriy Olshanskiy, director of the center for strategic analysis and forecasting told us today that Boris Yeltsin has a slight lead over Gennadiy Zyuganov. The two are followed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy; Aleksandr Lebed, whose chances are improving; and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who is losing his electorate. Svyatoslav Fedorov and Martin Shakkum are running neck and neck. Yeltsin's election program is considered to be the most appealing, followed by Zyuganov's and Shakkum's programs. Speaking of financial resources of the presidential candidates; Yeltsin is in the first place, followed by Zhirinovskiy, Yavlinskiy, Zyuganov, Bryntsalov. Speaking of intellectual potential of the presidential teams, 50 experts said that Shakkum's team is the most appealing, followed by those of Yavlinskiy, Yeltsin, Gorbachev, Zyuganov.

## Russia: Communists To Pervade Polling Stations

*MK0506083896 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 4 Jun 96 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Yekaterina Deyeva: "URNAgennaya Zona"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It's evening. On a street. A dirty, drunk male says: "Hey baby, let's have a good time together." The girl runs away. The drunk, in her wake, says: "You slut!"

This is all too like the logic of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation]: despite the log (whose front end Vladimir Ilyich [Lenin] carried during a subbotnik [a much ridiculed painting showing Lenin doing voluntary unpaid work on a Saturday inside the Kremlin]) it ignores to see in its own eye, it yells about the venal press and about politicians recruited by the CIA. And to cap it all, about the opponent's intention to falsify the presidential election results. Zyuganov's right hand (or possibly, his head), Valentin Kuptsov is so worried that he wishes to inundate the polling stations with his observers. The president's aide Georgiy Satarov is worried as much: the Communists are creating a parallel Central Electoral Commission. Which, should Yeltsin win, would yelp for all the world to hear claiming that millions of ballots cast for Zyuganov were buried on the Krasnaya Presnya stadium in the night and concrete was poured on them. Satarov charged the CPRF of "hoax" in the 1993 parliamentary elections consisting of as many as two million votes rigged by supporters of the party and put on the credit side.

Thus, it is no secret that a majority of electoral commissions has been long and firmly invaded by the Communists.

Even if MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS did not come into possession of information of the Institute of Modern Politics saying that at least a third of the members of electoral commissions at the local level are in sympathy with the Communists if not being CPRF members, this conclusion could have been drawn logically.

Local-level electoral commissions are formed by local administrations. Ideally, various collectives and associations are supposed to recommend their members to serve on them. In actual fact this happens in the way described to us by the ex-chairman of a Moscow district electoral commission who wished to remain unnamed:

"Officials who confirm the composition of local electoral commissions usually reject members of parties. To prevent biased attitudes. On one hand, they recruit random people: They select a spot, a movie theater, for example, and say: "Please, choose some of your staff to sit on the commission!" Thus, sitting on the commission is Jane Doe of the box office, whose only concern is to get back home in time for the "Santa Barbara" show (she is paid 150,000 [rubles] or so for two months with the electoral commission). The Central Electoral Commission has officially recognized that the level of training of the people on local commissions is rather low. As little as a third of the members of district commissions have a higher education.

On the other hand, they recruit tested people — there should be some experienced hands. Such valuable cadres, who have been "espoused" with the ballot boxes for a decade and more, are found in veteran councils. They are the most active of all: they instruct voters, take it upon themselves to count votes while the likes of Jane Doe are sitting back. They are also the most "pro-Zyuganov." I am no statistician, of course, but on the strength of my Duma-election experience I can argue that even in Moscow half the members of local commissions are pro-Communist. In some places around the oblast it is one hundred percent. Many carry CPRF cards...."

In theory, some objectivity is supposed to be guaranteed by observers and commission members with voice but no vote (one per candidate). But, first, they are not numerous and are not enough to take care of all of Russia; second, democrats happened to have simply been ejected from polling stations even in the capitals [Moscow and St. Petersburg] last December. A similar treatment was given the "envoy" of the Republican Party, Sergey Troshkin, when they frankly did not give a damn about his right of voice but no vote confirmed by documents and asked him "not to obstruct work" in a commission of the Marfino district. Here are the contents of a complaint sent in to the Central Electoral Commission: Ms. Leskova, DVR [Russia's Democratic Choice] representative at a polling station in the Izmaylovo district, insisted that the votes be counted again, following which Yabloko was four votes better off, but the CPRF was no worse for it. This is because Ms. Leskova was not let near the Communist ballots under strange pretexts. The truth remained a mystery....

"There are always errors in vote counting," our interlocutor argues. "If figures do not match, the commission often does no repeat counting and simply adjusts the figures to match the needed target. Which way to adjust them, is a matter of the electoral commission's taste. Here is a piece of proof for you: Now territorial commissions may (but not must) make use of the automated GAS — "Vybory" [State Automated System — Elections] system. Loaded into it are figures from all the [electoral] districts, and the computer sums them up. When there is some mismatch, repeat counting is a must: The computer saves and protects the first version from changes. Next to nobody used the automated GAS system in the last Duma elections! This, of course, can be attributed to inability to use the equipment. Laziness, too. But there is also the desire to rig votes. Incidentally, the higher a commission's status is, the more difficult it is to "forge" figures. Thus the bulk of errors comes from the bottom."

You cannot score many points by using this method, of course. But there are some other options. Say, the handling of controversial ballots: One seems to be positive about who the voter cast his ballot for, but the voter managed to somehow write one "no" too many. Commissions decide the fate of such [ballot] papers by voting. It is all too clear from whom veteran Communists would snatch one more vote with great pleasure.

Statisticians have counted: Eight percent of the voters decide who they are going to vote for right at the polling station, their stomach already against the polling box. You must have seen people who, before they enter the booths, begin to mutter: Who do I vote for, where do I sign, why do I.... Nice little old ladies approach the ladies who register voters: "Who for do I cross the box, dear?" It is easy for a CPRF Red Riding Hood to quietly counsel the old lady....

It was noted in the latest "Itogi" [weekly political analysis television program]: Votes were pouring down like manna on the Communists during the Duma elections in the regions were polling stations were mobile: where they carried polling boxed to the voters. On one hand, it is clear that where they carry polling boxes on a sledge, the people are not well-off. But here is one more commentary from our expert:

"In provincial areas, especially rural areas, voting reports can be ready by two in the afternoon although you can vote until 2200. How do they manage this? A miracle. The kolkhoz chairman, whose political orientation is easy to figure out, is usually chairman of the commission. The local voter depends on him for everything. When the ballot box is brought to the village, secret voting in fact becomes open voting: Everyone knows for whom his neighbor voted. Draw your own conclusions...."

Two weeks ago, the Institute of Modern Politics, mentioned earlier, held an action in Moscow: People were asked to elect one of the democratic presidential candidates (Gennadiy Andreyevich [Zyuganov] was not on the list, naturally). Clearly, this was a routine sociological study even if complete with ballot boxes and ballot papers. The Central Electoral Commission, the City Hall, and so on, were informed of the voting. Who could have expected that this innocuous action would provoke in some districts of the capital fierce opposition from electoral commissions, which did not start official work yet! The biggest scandal erupted in Sokolniki. The chairman of the local commission cast the sociologists out of the Youth Palace shouting: "What right do you have to ask my voters to come to you?" Asked how he happened to learn about the action, the comrade answered: "Our people gave us a call."

It is quite possible that "our person" was none other than Valentin Kuptsov. Later in the day, he stormed into the Duma office of the deputy Vladimir Lysenko, who was in charge of the minielections, to state he would "go to court for an anti-Communist provocation."

There must be strong links between polling stations and the CPRF's "gray eminence." In the meantime, the future of president in Russia can be decided by a tenth of a percentage point....

## Russia: Electoral Commission Head Predicts High Voter Turnout

*LD0406134596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 4 (Interfax) — The publication of the results of public opinion polls, forecasts concerning election results, and other research relating to the June 16 presidential elections is not permitted during the last three days before the elections, Russian Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov said in Moscow today.

According to forecasts made by sociologists, voter turnout in the presidential elections will be 75-77 percent, or "much higher" than in the State Duma elections in December 1995, Ryabov said on Tuesday at a round-table conference on public opinion polls relating to the presidential elections.

Some 800 international observers who will monitor the June 16 elections have already accredited themselves with the Central Electoral Commission, Ryabov said, adding that the commission was still receiving bids for accreditation.

An information center will work in Moscow on June 16 in order to inform the public of the vote and early election returns, Ryabov said.

## Russia: Revenues, Expenditures of Presidential Candidates Detailed

*MK0406082196 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Natalya Gorodetskaya: "The President Is the Richest Candidate. Only Boris Yeltsin Has an Established Electoral Fund"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As evidenced by the memo of the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] of the Russian Federation on the revenues and expenditures of presidential candidates, only Boris Yeltsin has a fully established electoral fund for the support of his election campaign, which amounts to 14,365,890,100 rubles [R]. Some days ago he had to make a statement, in which he thanked those who supported him and asked not to send more money, since the total amount has already reached the limit permitted by the law. Numerous trade union organizations, from the Russian SOTsPROF [expansion unknown] to the oblast branches of this association, banks, and the YeES Rossii [Russian

Integrated Power Grid] Joint-Stock Company have contributed R280 million each. Other joint-stock and open-end companies and associations have also contributed to the common cause as much as they could by donating from R350,000 to R280 million. Interestingly, individuals have clearly failed to regard the president as being poor, since he was supported by as few as 288 people, who donated R616,900,000. Boris Yeltsin has already spent R6,785,226,201 on canvassing in the media and on publications. Judging by accounting reports, Boris Yeltsin — incidentally as well as other candidates — has not spent a penny on public events (meetings, rallies). The president does not seem to be in for hard times, however, because he still has R7,580,663,899 in store.

Gennadiy Zyuganov has been supported by 499 individuals. They have collected R827,835,810. Money for the election campaign of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader has been contributed by 27 organizations, of which only 11 are Communist. Various open-end companies with poetic names like Gornostay [ermine], Volna [wave], Russkiy bereg [Russian shore], Timur [Tamerlane], etc., allotted from R80 million to R270 million. The country's main Communist has received R3,274,301,810, most of which have already been spent (with R20,242,641 left), probably in the hope to win right in the first round. He was the only one who specified his expenditures on regional support groups. As for the rest, in the provinces these have probably been campaigned for by altruists.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is also enjoying a great love of the Russian people, and his supporters have proved to be somewhat more wealthy than those of Mr. Zyuganov: 477 people have gathered R1,330,010,000. Another R2,688,000,000 for his campaign were donated by 11 organizations. Interestingly, Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy] has been supported mostly by construction organizations, which seem to be quite well-to-do. Such joint-stock companies as Stroymontazh-2000, Dizaynkomplekt, Ekspostroyprom, and others have donated R280 million each. As a result, Mr. Zhirinovskiy came into possession of R7,262,510,000, which he has been spending rather rationally; he has R3,901,657,761 left till the end of the election campaign.

It turned out that 29 enterprises have bet on Aleksandr Lebed. The LimVo Open-End Company, the Biyskiy Spirtzavod [Biysk alcohol factory] Open-End Joint-Stock Company, the Rybprognoz [fish forecast] Joint-Stock Company, Agroprombank, etc., have contributed from R280 million to R100,000. Individual contributions by 122 people, who came to their beloved candidate's rescue, amounted to R308,800,000. Of a total of R5,744,993,000 collected, Mr. Lebed has spent R2,348,228,500, having retained R4,396,764,500 for the continuation of the campaign.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy appears to discourage people from aiding him financially. Only one person has sent him R10,000. Large amounts of money for his election campaign, however, have been allotted by 21 organizations. Such joint-stock companies as Sirenevyy Tsvet, Dom Dlya Mashin, Stantsiya "Prokhod", Pchelinyy Ugol, and Doroga No. 45 did not hesitate to contribute R288,750,000 each for the support of Mr. Yavlinskiy's program. Of a total of R5,987,644,307, Mr. Yavlinskiy has spent R5,450,212,044 and, therefore, now has R537,432,263.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Yuriy Vlasov have been spending their money on the election campaign very economically. Having been given by the TsIK R300 million each, they have not been supported by any enterprise and organization and received as little as R10,000 each from their well-wishers. As a result, they have on their accounts R212,610,000 and R175,010,000, respectively.

Svyatoslav Fedorov, who had the same amount, on the contrary, has spent almost everything and is now left with R15,154,260.

One of the presidential candidates — Aman Tuleyev — felt hurt and was going to bring a suit against the TsIK and Nikolay Ryabov, its head, who "disrupted his election campaign" by having allocated the money as late as 28 May. According to ITAR-TASS, however, Mr. Tuleyev said that the TsIK money "will suffice only for cookies." Most probably, however, he will not need money at all, since he is going "to withdraw his candidacy in favor of Gennadiy Zyuganov three or four days before the election," about which Mr. Tuleyev said yesterday at a press conference in Arkhangelsk.

## Russia: Air Force Deputy Cited on Presidential Elections

*MM0506093896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Jun 96 p 1*

[Interview with Lieutenant General Mikhail Oparin, first deputy chief of the Air Force Main Staff, by Sergey Babichev; place and date not given: "Air Force Has Always Unfailingly Fulfilled Supreme Commander in Chief's Orders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Babichev] Mikhail Mikhailovich, the ink had not had time to dry on edicts nos. 722 and 723 on the transition to staffing the armed forces on a professional basis and on the procedure for sending servicemen to trouble spots before both documents came under critical crossfire. Some people considered them merely another sacrifice on the altar of the elections: The president, they said, is seeking the votes of the "uncaptured" electorate — those liable for the draft and their parents and pacifists of various kinds.... Others try to present the edicts as a kind of bone of contention between the Supreme Commander in Chief and the "ossified" generals who, they say, do not want to hear of any reforms in the army.... As first deputy chief of the Air Force Main Staff, how would you comment on these documents?

[Oparin] In the Air Force we have long been working on a professional basis. And we can see clearly the advantages and the drawbacks of the new approaches toward staffing the army. Yes, not everything is proceeding smoothly. But only a short-sighted or self-seeking person will consider edict no. 722 an electioneering ploy. This document was generated by life. The main obstacles on the path of its implementation are economic disorders. But it is perfectly obvious that, in signing an important edict the president was concerned also for the prerequisites for its fulfillment.

The same can be said of edict no. 723. The two documents are a requirement of the times. Moreover, the fulfillment of the directives of the Supreme Commander in Chief is for us military men the execution of our military duty. So that there can be no discussion on this subject in the army.

In general I want to stress that in individual mass media some people, because of inadequate competence or out of malicious intent, are trying to give a distorted assessment of the reforms which are being carried out in the Armed Forces. Including the Air Force. I state in all seriousness that this does not accord with reality. Here are just a few examples.

Since May 1992 the Russian Air Force has effected an unprecedented withdrawal of air units to Russian territory and has completed the creation of aviation groupings in the West. Two air armies have in fact been newly formed on the territory of the Moscow Military District and the North Caucasus Military District without major financial expenditure and social upheavals. Here in order to make rational use of the air force legacy bequeathed to Russia in the interests of creating combat-capable groupings, saving money, and preserving the flying personnel, we developed air force formations and units on the basis of a number of air force schools and instructors' regiments at educational centers.

The transition to a five-year system for training flying personnel was effected. We have halved the numerical strength of the Air Force without losing a single combat air regiment and have switched to a new organizational structure, reducing the number of air force formations to six and forming from Air Force personnel two new commands — the front-line aviation and the reserve and cadres training command. Is that not reform?

[Babichev] In the past few days the Russian president has undertaken a number of unprecedented steps to settle the conflict in Chechnya. Perhaps in the 18 months of confrontation between the federal troops and the Chechen separatists the sides have never been so close to peace not verbally but in deeds. How do you assess these peacemaking initiatives?

[Oparin] The accords reached in Moscow 27 May create a firm basis for ending the armed conflict. The Army and the Air Force have always unfailingly fulfilled the orders of the Supreme Commander in Chief. We also unconditionally support his peace initiatives. The Armed Forces are no less interested than the Russian public in ending the bloodshed. I want to hope that this mood also prevails among the Chechen field commanders.

Yet again the president has resolutely demonstrated his political will, authority, and tremendous desire to put an end to the war. I think these peacemaking steps will increase the number of his supporters at the forthcoming elections. Although there will probably be those who see in the president's actions only self- publicity and the desire to please voters. God shall be their judge, as they say.

[Babichev] How do you personally treat the military's participation in politics?

[Oparin] Unambiguously. The fulfillment of the orders of the Supreme Commander in Chief to resolve armed regional conflicts, for instance, is one thing. That is our constitutional duty. But if it is a case of creating any political structures in the army then I have a very negative attitude toward that. The Armed Forces' role is to defend the state. In no circumstances must they become currency in political games. Although of course each of us is free in his political preferences. The elections are a good opportunity to demonstrate them.

[Babichev] Why have you given the go-ahead to the suggestion that you become the president's agent?

[Oparin] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's consent to run for a second term means that he is not simply aware of his own responsibility for the job he has begun and for achievements and errors but also knows how to ensure that Russia occupies a fitting place in the world community of states. The president's political experience is also unique.

In an interview Aviation Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force, stressed that the Air Force personnel have always given their votes for what is forward-looking and progressive. I am prepared to subscribe to those words. So when I was asked to become the president's agent I said yes.

## CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 Jun

*LD0506052796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0440 GMT 5 Jun 96*

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Today's Russian newspapers focus on the coming presidential elections on June 16. The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper features an interview with the Russian President under the headline "Boris Yeltsin: The main thing is for Russia to make its final choice in favour of freedom".

Replying to the daily's questions on the coming polls, Yeltsin said: "I'm sure of victory. I see that people do not want to go back, to the past. Russians have developed a feeling for freedom and do not want to part with it.

"We have still much to do, to strengthen democracy and free market relations, to completely beat down inflation and to carry out structural reorganization of industry. We have now a good potential to resolve these tasks in the near future."

The IZVESTIYA newspaper comments on a statement by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev that sailors who are now far away from Russia and, therefore, voted ahead of time, unanimously supported Yeltsin.

The daily writes that, making public the election results before the polls, Grachev intimated that the democratic manifestation of will was replaced with military discipline. IZVESTIYA writes that this is a glaring violation of law.

Under the title "Zyuganov (Eds: Zyuganov is a presidential candidate and leader of the Russian Communist Party) wants to restore the level of consumption of... lies", the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper exposes planks of Gennadiy Zyuganov's platform about "a 50-percent drop in the consumption level of goods and services".

Statistics given in the article show that the consumption of foods over the past 15 or five years remains approximately at the same level. In another article, the daily refutes allegations by the opposition on a threat of falsifying the elections by the present authorities.

IZVESTIYA runs the final part of the serial "Voice from 'a swamp'", examining positions of politically indifferent part of Russian voters.

The daily ends the train of its thoughts with the following address to readers: "My dear readers, you should feel the following way on the eve of the elections: the grapple for your votes will go even for a long time, and communism will be beaten only by ONE VOTE at the last moment. This will be YOUR VOTE".

Speaking in an interview with the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Lieutenant-General Mikhail Oparin, deputy head of the Air Force chief staff, said that the Moscow understandings on Chechnya, reached on May 27, "create a solid basis for ending the armed conflict".

"The army and the Air Force have always undeviatingly fulfilled orders of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. We also unequivocally support his peace initiatives," Oparin emphasised.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article entitled "Investments are not begged, they are attracted" by Economics Minister of the Komi Republic A. Karakchiev. According to quoted data, the volume of foreign investments in the republic topped 500 million U.S. dollars in the recent past.

Posters with the inscription "Alternative Civil Service Committee invites for an interview those who want to undergo this service instead of military" appeared in the streets of Volgograd, a regional administrative centre situated in the lower reaches of the Volga river.

This is the first attempt in Russia to carry out such a recruitment. IZVESTIYA describes how city authorities help to realise this constitutional right.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International declared Kazakhstan the world's fourth country as to the number of executed death sentences after China, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.

This Wednesday is World Environment Protection Day. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a series of articles under the heading "We cannot wait for a mercy from nature until we protect it ourselves".

## CIS: Kislovodsk Declaration Seen as First Step in Long Process

*MK0406122496 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 1*

[Report by Natalya Konstantinova: "Presidential Meeting in Kislovodsk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, a meeting of the heads of state of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and the Russian Federation took place in Kislovodsk, as a result of which they signed a declaration entitled "For International Accord, Peace, and Economic and Cultural Cooperation in the Caucasus." Taking part in the expanded all-Caucasus meeting were the heads of 12 North Caucasus components of the Russian Federation.

Addressing the heads of Transcaucasian states and heads of autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus, Boris Yeltsin noted that the establishment of a durable peace is the foundation of Russia's Caucasus policy, and he described the meeting itself as "unique" in both the composition of the participants and the nature of the problems discussed.

The declaration signed as a result by the heads of state can be very well qualified as a protocol of intentions and as a guide to action of all the interested sides in resolving interethnic and other conflicts in the Caucasus. Formulated in the declaration are the main principles of settlement of conflicts in the Caucasus, included among which are the observance of standards of territorial integrity of states, inviolability of borders, the right of peoples to decide their own future, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights and freedoms of individuals who belong to ethnic minorities.

The declaration openly speaks about the important peacekeeping mission of Russia, as well as of some international organizations. It is being stressed that the sides categorically reject "aggressive separatism, the show of ethnic exclusivity, interreligious strife, and religious extremism." Put at the head of the list instead are all-around partnership and encouragement of integration between our countries on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

To all appearances, this declaration is the first step toward the realization of a complex and long-term program of realistic measures for even closer relations between the republics of the Greater Caucasus themselves and Russia. Answering your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's question on whether the meeting might prove fruitless and all its decisions might remain on paper, member of the Russian delegation Sergey Shakhray said: "I believe that the word 'declaration' merits respect. In this case, we are speaking about a document of the highest political order. The meeting has been in preparation since the spring of 1993, for which reason it is not an election campaign stunt. It took time for its participants to "ripen" for it, as they say. Its meaning consists in rather close joint efforts in matters of settling conflicts."

Furthermore, the declaration contains paramount tasks to be taken on by the republics which gathered yesterday in Kislovodsk: the formation of a common economic space, and further development of commercial, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

In Kislovodsk, Boris Yeltsin presented his vision of a Caucasus policy and assessed the situation in Chechnya. First, the attempts to dismember the single Caucasus organism, in Boris Yeltsin's words, to drive a wedge between separate Caucasus peoples and countries, would inevitably cause great troubles. Second, the situation in the Caucasus, as described by the Russian Federation president, should be put under close joint control. It is possible to achieve this, in the words of the Russian president, on the basis of developing federative principles.

Boris Yeltsin outlined the third position as the recognition by Russia of the sovereignty of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. Fourth: The deepening of cooperation and integration. Fifth: The recognition of the Caucasus as an important element of strengthening the Pan-European security system. The Russian head of state confirmed Russia's intentions to continue also in the future its peacekeeping functions.

As regards Chechnya, in Boris Yeltsin's opinion, a turning point has been achieved there, and the recently signed understandings pave the way to a complete settlement of the conflict. The president once again stressed that the plan with regard to Chechnya "is being carried into effect," and voiced confidence that settlement of the crisis in Chechnya would benefit all states of the Caucasus.

Answering a question from your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent on whether the Russian side still intends to adhere to a tough position with regard to the settlement of the Chechen crisis, Boris Yeltsin said: "To achieve peace in this situation, there should be a fairly firm position. A soft position does not lead to a result. Russia's position should be peaceful but firm."

### Russia: Primakov Pleased With NATO Meeting in Berlin

*LD0406154496 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a meeting with his NATO colleagues in Berlin, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov said he is pleased with the results of the NATO meeting.

Primakov obtained assurances that the prospect of NATO's eastward expansion is not a foregone conclusion and that in any case no large NATO forces will be deployed near the Russian border.

### Russia: Primakov Denies AP Report on Agreement to NATO Expansion

*LD0406162296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1551 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksey Korinenko, Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Berlin, 4 Jun — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has strenuously denied an AP report to the effect that Russia could agree to NATO's eastward expansion provided no foreign troops are deployed in the territory of the alliance's new member states. Ye. Primakov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the report, which quoted an official spokesman for the U.S. delegation at the Berlin session of the NATO Council, was totally untrue. Russia cannot agree to a NATO expansion if it brings the bloc's military infrastructure closer to its borders. The notion of military infrastructure includes command structures, communication systems, means of reconnaissance and intelligence collection, etc.

### Russia: Restructured NATO Seen Ignoring European Security Issues

*MM0406162896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 3*

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "NATO: Last 'Synchronization of Watches'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The series of meetings of NATO leadership bodies that began in Berlin yesterday is the last chance to "synchronize watches" before the pause brought about by the upcoming Russian and U.S. elections. At their next session in December the Atlanticists are to say something more definite about the plans for NATO's eastward expansion. As for the Berlin session, Yevgeniy Primakov, the head of our foreign policy department, who is to have a "16 plus one" meeting with his NATO colleagues in addition to taking part in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, believes that no surprises are expected at this time. NATO members will not emphasize the expansion theme so as not to complicate the election situation in Russia.

But it would be far more rational were the pause due not to tactical considerations but to analysis of the strategic consequences of NATO's eastward expansion. There is every reason for this. After all, alliance and NATO country leaders quite recently stated in all sincerity that Russia's refusal to accept the plans for NATO expansion is not a rational but an emotional refusal. The Russians are allegedly being influenced by the outdated stereotypes of the Cold War. You only have to explain everything properly to the Russians for them to immediately consent.

But each time Solana, Kohl, and Clinton have heard completely rational arguments in response. As far as I can see, these arguments by no means boil down to the idea that Moscow is afraid of sudden Western aggression. That is not the point. Moscow is afraid that, if it extends its military infrastructure to part of East Europe, the North Atlantic bloc will thus create the basis for future suspicion and conflict. After all, suspicions are arising even now, when the expansion plans are only under discussion. Either a misinterpretation of what Solana said makes people suspect that Brussels is nonetheless planning to deploy nuclear weapons in East Europe. Or renewed fears are arising over statements that neutral Finland wants to join NATO.

As far as I understand it, Moscow sees the solution in security guarantees on NATO's part for the states of East and Central Europe if they so desire. But these countries' inclusion in the NATO military infrastructure is utterly unacceptable to us. And we are not talking here about the election situation or political considerations, as Yevgeniy Primakov said in response to my question. We are talking about real threats to Russia's security.

And, no matter how many times Brussels bureaucrats reiterate that Russia has no right of veto when questions of NATO expansion are being decided, they are bound to take account of its position. The price of the new members' admission will be too high for NATO, for Russia, and for Europe as a whole. Therefore the idea of creating a nuclear-free zone in Central and East Europe, voiced during April's G-7 meeting in Moscow, should be regarded in precisely this context. I will not claim that NATO members can accept these ideas straight off, but they do form a basis for substantive talks. And it would be a good thing if the Atlanticists were to pay more attention to these ideas.

But there is every indication that this will not happen. NATO regards this pause as a time to regroup forces on the eve of a major offensive. It is in Berlin that France will make its "historic" return to the bloc's military structures after a 30-year absence. And in no way are we talking here about the return of the "prodigal Atlantic son." Because precisely the decisions on which Paris insisted will be adopted simultaneously with France's return. These decisions are to give the European states a far greater role than before in planning and implementing operations within the NATO framework, and even the right to carry them out autonomously.

At the same time, judging by the State Department's explanations, Washington is even prepared to put its troop contingents, intelligence information, and transport at the Europeans' disposal in order to ensure NATO's restructuring. Even a situation whereby U.S. military are transferred to the Europeans' command is not ruled out. True, the United States would like to reserve the right to refuse to take part in any particular operation.

Obviously these truly revolutionary moves by Washington are essential to prevent the U.S. European allies developing military structures in parallel to NATO. Such structures could be set up within the framework of the Western European Union, for instance. An increased role for the Europeans in NATO apparently makes this unnecessary, according to the Americans. Thus, in Berlin the Atlanticists will spend more time discussing issues of enhancing NATO's effectiveness as a military-political alliance than problems of European security as such.

### Russia: 'Security Experts' on NATO Enlargement

*BR0406114096 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 1 Jun 96 p A10*

[Article by Bengt Albons: "NATO Expansion Would Humiliate Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — The NATO defense alliance's decision to admit countries which were formerly part of the Soviet sphere of interest is creating tensions between Russian and the Western world. NATO enlargement is dominating Russian foreign policy and means that other issues in the field of cooperation with the West are becoming overshadowed and made more difficult.

With varying degrees of indignation Russian security policy experts are rejecting future NATO enlargement. They are in full agreement that it should not take place; there are no dissenting voices here. Some feel let down or betrayed by the West, many consider that Russia is being humiliated by the victorious powers from the Cold War.

They think that it would be unfortunate if nonaligned countries like Sweden and Finland were to join NATO, but the strongest feelings are elicited by the idea that the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — and Ukraine — could join.

A formal decision to enlarge the Atlantic pact was reached by NATO's 16 allies 18 months ago. This gave rise in Russia to an indignation and suspicion of the West which is expected to become even deeper when enlargement becomes a reality.

During the first half of next year a decision is expected on who the first new members will be. Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic — but probably not Slovakia — will probably receive invitations to begin negotiations on membership.

It must be considered out of the question that the Baltic countries and Ukraine should be invited to join in the near future. This is not on the agenda, say government officials from leading NATO nations such as the United States, France, and Germany. However, officially nothing is being said about who the new members will be, and the Balts still seem to be hoping to be included in a first phase.

For the time being at least, NATO is avoiding admitting those countries which are thought to have the greatest need of a security affiliation with the West. Their strategic position with borders with Russia and the fact that they were once Soviet republics makes the issue particularly sensitive. And for the Baltic countries there is the additional factor that NATO consider them impossible to defend.

As far as possible future membership for Finland and Sweden is concerned, politicians within NATO generally say that these countries are welcome if they want to join. Since they want to remain nonaligned the issue is not on the agenda, even though the debate on NATO membership has taken off in both Finland and Sweden.

Within the Russian security establishment there is an understanding for the fact that those countries in Central Europe which were members of the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact before the collapse of the Soviet Union want to belong to the Western world and again be integrated into the rest of Europe. It is often stressed that membership of the European Union is a completely noncontroversial alternative to NATO.

"Sitting here talking about NATO membership feels like wasting one's time. We have much more important things to resolve in this world."

So said Sergey Karaganov, head of the Europe Institute in Moscow and an adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Karaganov would prefer to devote his time to global communications, transport, energy questions, and environmental problems — questions which the West and Russia have an interest in resolving together.

In Karaganov's view, NATO belongs to the past, and he said that in the West there is a small minority of "Natoists" who are pushing the question of NATO enlargement and who are fighting for their own positions.

"NATO was created to halt communism, but now communism is dead. Enlarging NATO would be to go back in time; it would not give increased stability in Europe which is the most stable region in the world," Sergey Karaganov said.

According to Karaganov, Russia has no problems with NATO as the alliance looks today. On the contrary, he said that NATO is needed to keep the United States in Europe, in part to prevent there being only one strong power (Germany) here.

Sergey Karaganov considers that Europe and Russian together should work to create new security structures, a pan-European security.

He also believes that this will be possible if both Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton are reelected this year. According to Karaganov, if Yeltsin wins he will take the initiative for negotiations on new security structures before the end of the year.

According to Karaganov, the Russian opposition to NATO enlargement is not due to the fact that Russia views NATO as a threat. The problems is 90 percent political and emotional.

This is a theme which resurfaces in conversations with Russian security policy experts. They stress that Russia feels let down by the West, that NATO is exploiting Russia's weakness following the collapse of the Soviet Union to advance its positions.

Karaganov claims that in the past Russia was given assurances that this would not happen. In conversations with West European diplomats the Soviet Union's last president, Mikhail Gorbachev, has claimed that in connection with negotiations on German reunification former U.S. President George Bush and German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised not to fill the vacuum in Eastern Europe with NATO forces. This is a claim that has been denied by the West.

Viktor Kremenyuk, assistant chief of the USA and Canada Institute in Moscow, gives the reminder that suspicion about the intentions of the West is nothing new in Russia. He mentioned Napoleon's and Hitler's attacks.

"For us the West was an aggressor and could become so again," he said.

In the current election campaign for the Russian presidential election NATO enlargement is not an issue. This is explained by the fact that the candidates stand united against enlargement and that the economy and unemployment are the issues which are worrying the Russians. In an opinion poll only 17 percent said that Russia should do more to become a great power. Some 40 percent consider that NATO enlargement would be a threat to Russia, while 30 percent do not believe this.

It is likely that the Russian opposition to enlargement will soften after the presidential election and some sort of compromise with NATO can perhaps be reached.

"In the event of NATO enlargement nationalist forces and opponents of reform will become stronger. Those who are working for better relations with the West will be harmed. There is a risk that the West could lose Russia," Viktor Kremenyuk said. He also thinks that NATO enlargement makes it more difficult to develop democracy and a civilian society in Russia.

Kremenyuk agrees with military policy commentator Pavel Felgengauer that in NATO enlargement the Russian military sees a chance of advancing its positions and acquiring greater influence.

"I know several generals who are looking forward to NATO's enlargement because it gives them an argument for a military buildup. They are desperate to find reasons to be given more money," Pavel Felgengauer said. He is considered to be the Russian journalist who has the best contacts within the military machine and through his articles in the SEGODNYA newspaper is seen as a mouthpiece for the General Staff.

Felgengauer considers that NATO enlargement will create a situation in Europe considerably more dangerous than during the Cold War. As a result of the fact that Russia would feel surrounded and not have the buffer states against the West which the Soviet Union had, the step to a "hot war" would be shorter and the threshold for using nuclear arms would be lowered, he claims.

"We would not wait for an attack, but we ourselves would strike first for preventive reasons. This is a very dangerous situation, but I know people at the General Staff who argue along such lines," Felgengauer said.

He added, however, that he sees his role as bringing the arguments to a head.

NATO's mission in Moscow consists of one information officer, Britain's John Lough. He admits that it is not an easy task to sell NATO to a body of Russian opinion which misunderstands what NATO actually is. He points out that NATO has not gone out asking for more members, but that the alliance cannot say no to free states which want to leave the Russian sphere of interest.

According to John Lough, Russia has not accepted NATO proposals for a special relationship with NATO and the question of enlargement has reached deadlock.

"We are not talking the same language," John Lough said.

However, the dialogue is not totally blocked. In both NATO and Russia there are forces which are seeking to break the deadlock. One of them is researcher Dmitriy Trenin at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Moscow. Like other Russian security policy experts he is against NATO enlargement and warns in particular of a serious crisis if the Baltic countries are admitted — something which some Russians consider unacceptable.

According to Dmitriy Trenin, Finnish membership would create a vulnerable flank in northwestern Russia and increase the emphasis on nuclear defenses. And Swedish membership would make Russia feel more pressured and isolated.

In Trenin's view, instead of going for NATO enlargement the West should first and foremost improve relations with Russia and build a partnership involving demilitarized relations.

"The real change will come when Russia is politically united with Europe. I would like to see an agreement between Russian and NATO which creates a council for political consultations," Dmitriy Trenin said.

In Trenin's view, in parallel with the NATO countries NATO and Russia could also create forums for defense planning and nuclear planning where it would be possible to have daily contacts on security policy issues and avoid tensions.

### Russia: Poll of Foreign Policy Experts Suggests Pro-PRC Trend

*AU0406122496 Munich FOCUS in German 3 Jun 96 pp 235-238*

[Report by Gudrun Dometeit: "Vision of Greatness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov used Chinese wisdom to describe his country's relationship with the West. Quoting Mao Zedong in an IZVESTIYA interview in March, he said: "If you want to get something straight, you have to bend it." "We have bent to the extreme." He added that a strategic partnership with the "former opponents in the Cold War" was out of the question now.

A new opinion poll among the bigwings of Russian foreign policy, which was made available to FOCUS, confirms that the pro-Western policymakers are on the retreat, whereas the proponents of a separate Russian way seeking closer relations with China are on the upswing. Soberness is called for, no longer blind orientation toward the West. Russia wants to be a big power again and to remember its own strength. On behalf of the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation [close to the Social Democratic Party of Germany], the Moscow-based Sinus Social Research Institute and the Center of Public Opinion and Market Research (VCIOM) interviewed 103 experts from the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Trade Ministry, Boris Yeltsin's presidential staff, research institutes for international affairs, and parliament.

A total of 41 percent of the foreign policymakers advocate special neighborly relations with the former enemy China. In a similar poll in 1993, less than 10 percent held this view. The reasons for the large interest in the eastern neighbor are lucrative arms deals, an answer to U.S. hegemony in world politics, and an answer to the planned NATO enlargement to the East.

"There has been no de-Americanization of policy, there is at best a larger balance," Vladislav Belov of the Moscow European Affairs Institute says. Nonetheless, Alexander Rahr, a Bonn expert on Russia, says an anti-American mood in the Russian society can be noted. "There were too many promises that were not kept. Masses of economists were sent to Moscow, but that did not bring Russia anything." It is true that 50 percent of the experts polled by Sinus advocate good relations with the United States. But at the same time, Washington has become enemy number one.

On the other hand, every fifth sees in Germany a friend, after the CIS republics Belarus and Kazakhstan. Two-thirds assess the reunification of Germany positively.

Russia primarily wants to be a "global player" again. "We are a big power, and our policy must reflect this status," said former intelligence chief Primakov at the beginning of his period in office as foreign minister. According to the Sinus poll, 64 percent of Russian foreign policymakers are dreaming of the restoration of Russia as a big power or a superpower.

A large percentage of Russia's foreign policy elite would react drastically to an enlargement of NATO to the eastern European states by increasing conventional and nuclear weapons for the Army, by deploying troops to Russia's western borders, or by founding a security pact within the CIS.

President Yeltsin was also eloquently thundering against the enlargement — in time for the beginning of the NATO foreign ministers' meeting this week. NATO intended to profit from changes in the international order, he said, in order to enlarge its military machinery. "The Western countries are trying to strengthen their leadership in the world." What is alarming is this: Russia's foreign policy experts believe that the danger of a new cold war between East and West has increased.

These experts are painting horror scenarios of Russia's domestic policy situation: As many as 91 percent are expecting mass revolts and strikes within the next three years; 71 percent are expecting another fantastic and unbelievable accident in a nuclear power plant, as in Chernobyl, and as many as 58 percent are expecting a dictatorship in Russia.

## Russia: Primakov Italy/FRY Tour Also Pursued Russian Interests

*MM0406120696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by special correspondent Aleksandr Golts: "The Bosnia Settlement Cannot Manage Without Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome-Belgrade-Moscow — The three days of Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov's latest trip abroad embraced intensive talks with the top leaders of three states at once — the Vatican, Italy, and Yugoslavia. In addition, the Russian foreign policy department head had consultations with the EU's leading troika and with Carl Bildt, plenipotentiary for the civilian part of the settlement in Bosnia.

The talks concerned both bilateral relations and a very wide range of international problems. But a settlement in the former Yugoslavia was the chief subject of the trip. It is no secret that the peace process in Bosnia is currently seriously on the skids. It is also no secret why this has happened. On the one hand there are provocations by extremists seeking to wreck the scheduled elections (and, in our diplomats' opinion, provoking far more actions on the part of the Muslim-Croat federation than on the Serb part). On the other hand there are a number of Western politicians who are clearly pursuing narrow, egotistical ends and trying once again, for the umpteenth time, to pin all the blame on the Bosnian Serbs.

These attempts have now been concentrated in the ultimatum-style demand for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, who headed the self-proclaimed Serb Republic, and to have him tried by an international tribunal. The Bosnian Serbs have already responded by starting to talk about holding a referendum on whether or not to fulfill the Dayton agreements. Certain hotheads in Western countries are already threatening to reimpose sanctions against Yugoslavia. A confrontational, destructive scenario was essentially developing before our eyes, leading each time to an impasse.

It was against this background that Yevgeniy Primakov held talks with the Yugoslav leaders, including Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. The Russian minister of foreign affairs emphasized in his conversation with journalists that during the talks the common opinion was expressed that the agreements on a settlement can only be implemented if the world community takes an even-handed approach to all the parties in the conflict instead of discriminating against one of them. Russia intends to pursue precisely this policy.

As regards Karadzic, in Primakov's opinion he has virtually retired and passed on all powers to his successor, Biljana Plavzic. The Yugoslav leadership believes that the problem itself has thereby been resolved, and it is possible, Primakov pointed out, to agree with this approach. I will point out that this option has clearly been worked out with Karadzic himself. A highly informed source in Belgrade told me that "Karadzic is prepared to go in the interests of his people."

But Primakov regards the demand for the former Serb leader's arrest as completely counterproductive. Yes, Karadzic can and must quit the political scene as someone accused of war crimes. But if we really want a peace settlement, we must think about how a particular event will affect the situation and whether it will destabilize the situation.

In Yevgeniy Primakov's opinion, it would be equally counterproductive to carry out the threat to reinstate the sanctions against the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia]. It was Belgrade's stance that predetermined the fact that there has been no bloodshed in Bosnia and Herzegovina for six months now. But it must be clear to anyone that the revival of sanctions will inevitably wreck the entire settlement process. Now is the very time to be talking about the direct opposite, namely the final lifting of sanctions, which have as yet only been suspended. The FRY has never yet taken its seat in international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Yugoslavia does not have access to IMF credits either, and its foreign accounts have been frozen.

Quite honestly, you have only to walk along Belgrade's streets to see the economic sanctions' devastating impact. You encounter buildings with broken windows and crumbling plaster at literally every step in the very center of the city. You can understand why the Yugoslav leadership is counting (not without grounds) on support from Moscow. People in Belgrade see Russia as a force which can balance the at times one-sided and plainly unjust approach of Western states.

But active involvement in the Bosnian settlement also accords with Russian interests. It is not only a matter of a natural desire to help a fraternal people who find themselves in trouble. Not only a desire to eliminate a hotbed of tension in Europe. Life itself has proved that the idea that Russia must "concentrate" on domestic problems, declining active involvement in international affairs, is untenable. The naive faith that our Western partners would take our national interests into consideration simply out of a sense of justice has never been confirmed. To ensure that Russia's voice is heeded, we must remain an influential and independent factor in the international arena.

Yevgeniy Primakov's meeting with EU leadership representatives is highly significant here. It seems to me that Moscow's explanations with regard to the integration processes inside the CIS were greeted with some understanding for the first time at such a high level. Yevgeniy Primakov emphasized that fears concerning the Soviet Union's reincarnation in its previous form are totally groundless. It is a question of something else: of pooling the efforts of perfectly sovereign states, similar to the way this has happened and is happening in West Europe.

But it was certainly no coincidence that these sensible words were heard and understood as soon as Russia demonstrated that its policy was a noteworthy factor in the Bosnian settlement and the Near East settlement and that it possessed levers of influence precisely over those parties to the conflicts which the West is virtually unable to influence. The world has ceased to be bipolar. But in the new system of international ties which is being created Russia must seek, in any circumstances, to become one of several poles. Yevgeniy Primakov's trip has shown that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sets itself precisely this task.

## Russia: State Duma Speaker Interviewed About Visit to DPRK

*SK0406131096 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[Interview with Gennadiy Seleznev, speaker of the Russian Duma, with unidentified station reporter; Seleznev's remarks begin in Russian and fade into Korean — from the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Russian State Duma recently paid an official visit to the DPRK. A station reporter interviewed Gennadiy Seleznev, speaker of the State Duma, who had led the delegation. The following is the gist of the interview.

[Reporter] Whom did you meet while visiting the DPRK?

[Seleznev] I met the vice premier of the Administration Council, the DPRK foreign minister, and leaders of the Supreme People's Assembly. I did not meet the leader [chidoja] Kim Chong-il. We were told the leader Kim Chong-il wad not receiving foreign guests because of his three years of mourning.

[Reporter] What was your impression of the DPRK and the Korean people?

[Seleznev] The country was under relatively difficult conditions economically. Last year, the DPRK suffered serious material damage due to floods. In particular, agriculture suffered serious damage. The situation is so serious that the food ration system cannot adequately meet the people's demands. We could not but be surprised at the diligent nature of the DPRK people. They did everything assiduously. We were greatly impressed by Pyongyang's subway. Streets and plazas in Pyongyang were very clean. The DPRK people have great confidence in themselves and are full of fighting spirit. They firmly believe they have the right to live along the road they have chosen by themselves.

[Reporter] What was the attitude of the DPRK people toward Russia? What are the prospects of relations between the DPRK and Russia?

[Seleznev] The DPRK still trusts Russia. It is time for Russia to see the DPRK through different eyes. For decades, we have assisted the DPRK in building many economic plants. However, due to the lack of economic ties between our two countries in recent years, many plants have not operated smoothly. For instance, a (?crude oil) processing plant has not operated smoothly, and a textile plant built with Soviet assistance has been almost inoperative. It is time for the two countries to promote bilateral cooperation.

Today, we have again begun turning our attention to Pyongyang. Russia has mapped out a new treaty with the DPRK, which the DPRK is now reviewing. I think the new treaty will be signed this autumn.

[Reporter] The United States and the ROK put forward a proposal to discuss the question of the Korean peninsula via four-way talks. The United States, the ROK, China, and the DPRK are the parties concerned with the talks. Russia is alienated from the process. What was Pyongyang's reaction to this proposal?

[Seleznev] Russia cannot retreat from the four-way talks. Russia should participate in such multilateral talks without fail. This is my private opinion. Pyongyang expressed its consent with my opinion.

The United States is trying to play the role of number-one man in the Asia-Pacific region, which is why the United States is trying to exclude Russia from the region.

Pyongyang has yet to receive detailed explanations from the United States and the ROK about the objective of four-way talks and the results they seek from the talks. This is why Pyongyang has yet to declare its participation in the talks.

Beijing also wants to know more detailed contents of the four-way talks proposal. I think the proposal for four-way talks is very doubtful.

[Reporter] As regards your visit to the DPRK, I would like to pay attention to the following point. Would you tell in detail why, of the reporters covering your visit to the DPRK, only PRAVDA reporters were granted visas.

[Seleznev] This was our technical mistake. The list of names for ITAR-TASS, Novosti Press, and Interfax reporters were submitted to the DPRK Embassy two days before my visit. We should have submitted the lists to the DPRK Embassy 10 days before. The DPRK ambassador to Moscow expressed regret over this fact. PRAVDA reporters could leave for Pyongyang along with the delegation because they were delegation members. By the way, I would like to take this opportunity to point out the following:

Pyongyang is critical that Russian reporters have failed to objectively write about life in the DPRK. We informed the DPRK that we cannot tell our mass media to do this or that because, of the total mass media, 90 percent are independent. We explained to the DPRK, however, that government-operated mass media does not make such mistakes.

### Russia: Parallels Seen in U.S. Policy on Netanyahu, Zyuganov Wins

*MM0406153196 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian*
*4 Jun 96 p 3*

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Americans Put Netanyahu and Zyuganov on the Same Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — The United States expended much energy and spent a lot of money in pursuit of a Shim'on Peres victory in Israel — and he lost. And the entire edifice of the Near East peace settlement on which Clinton's people have been working so selflessly for the past three years has buckled and cracked.

This year is marked by elections in three countries: Israel, Russia, and the United States. William Safire, the bilious and incisive — when on form — observer of THE NEW YORK TIMES, has insisted that all the recent international high-level gatherings have been linked to saving the following troika: Shim'on Peres, Boris Yeltsin, and Bill Clinton.

Many things bound these leaders together. Each of them has a host of enemies within and many admirers outside his own country. The U.S. President has left no doubt about whom he would vote for were he a Jew or Russian respectively. In helping others, President Clinton was helping himself.

Shim'on Peres was the guarantor of the continuation of negotiations. Arab terrorists did not just blow up buses in Jerusalem. They scattered Peres' chances to the four winds. Clinton did not sit on the fence. He immediately organized a high-level conference in Sharm al-Shaykh. He gave Israel money. He gave them top secret equipment. He ordered his intelligence service, which is armed with simply fantastic equipment, to hide nothing from their Israeli colleagues. Or almost nothing. It did not help.

The election of Binyamin Netanyahu was a blow to the White House. Bibi (Netanyahu's nickname) is no anti-American. He studied in the United States and lived here a long time, representing his country at the United Nations. His English is excellent even by the standards of a country in which English is second among foreign languages only to Russian.

But he opposes the very fundamentals of peace with the Palestinians. He is against "land for peace." Against the destruction of Israeli settlements in the tiny enclaves allocated to Palestinian autonomy. Against the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Jericho. Against negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem.

In short, he is against everything that is written in the agreements of which the United States is both co-author and guarantor.

What did the U.S. President do immediately after Peres' defeat? He congratulated his rival a few minutes after the results were announced. He immediately invited him to Washington. And expressed his hopes for the continuation of the peace process.

The newspaper suggests that the Israeli elections will weaken moderate Arab politicians such as King Husayn of Jordan, increase the suspicions of mistrustful ones such as President al-Asad of Syria, and inflict profound damage on — or even destroy altogether — Yasir 'Arafat.

U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher, speaking on CNN's Sunday political review, was vaguely optimistic. He pointed to signs of moderation emanating from the new Israeli premier's camp. These signals are unmistakable, but Netanyahu hastened to warn that it is not aides, however close, who formulate his country's policy. What they say is opinion. Decisions are made by the premier.

However much the positions and views of American university graduate Netanyahu and Orel Pedagogical Institute graduate Zyuganov differ, the White House is currently perfecting a model for adapting to a possible unpleasant reality.

This comparison might seem fanciful, if it had not occurred to several commentators at once. "Although the White House is refraining from openly endorsing Russian President Boris Yeltsin — just as it refrained from supporting outgoing Israeli Premier Shim'on Peres — its preferences are crystal clear," diplomatic observer Michael Dobbs writes in the latest edition of THE WASHINGTON POST. "The Clinton administration wanted Peres to win, and it would like Yeltsin to win, since a Communist victory could jeopardize Russia's transformation into a 'normal country.'"

M. Dobbs, who has excellent connections in the top echelons of the U.S. capital, claims that politicians here claim that they "have elaborated a flexible strategy for relations with Russia that can be swiftly adapted to changing circumstances. The Clinton administration is ready to do business with Zyuganov if he delivers on the moderate, pragmatic image that he has displayed during his foreign trips. If he fulfills the Communist Party's promises to renationalize large chunks of Russian industry and to recreate the Soviet Union, U.S.-Russian relations could be in for a bumpy ride."

Two main preconditions underlie America's "Netanyahu strategy." First: Israel is committed to good relations with the United States no less than the United States itself is committed to good relations with Israel. The unexpected victor, even if not so pleasant as Shim'on Peres, represents a friendly, not a hostile state.

However, Washington's specific steps will depend on the stubbornness of the new Israeli premier, on how skillfully he manages to cover the traces of his election promises under the disapproving gaze of his admirers. The two weeks that remain before the elections in Russia will clarify the picture, if only in its general outlines.

## Russia: Content of Peace Shield-96 Multinational Exercise Detailed

*MM0506103696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 1*

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts and Anatoliy Yurkin: "Peacekeepers Learn Cooperation. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev Attends Peace Shield-96 Exercise, Which Has Begun at Yavorov Test Site"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, arrived in Lvov 3 June to take part in the international exercise Peace Shield-96 under NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. Peacekeeping missions will be rehearsed at the test site near Yavorov.

During the 3 June opening ceremony Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov stressed the historic significance of the event. We are divided by borders and we speak different languages, the head of Ukraine's military department said, but we have common interests, namely, peace, accord, and prosperity for our peoples.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry also spoke during the opening ceremony, stressing that he is inspired by the picture which the defense ministers of the participating countries are witnessing — all the servicemen standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder. Moreover, there are people lined up together who until recently were military adversaries.

Subunits from 10 countries — Russia, the United States, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic — are taking part in the exercise, which is due to end 8 June. Over 1,200 people in all, including observers from 25 countries, are involved in the exercise.

The theme of the exercise is "The organization and conducting of peacekeeping operations by peacekeeping contingents' multinational troops in a conflict zone." As during the similar peacekeeping exercise at Russia's Totskoye test site the exercise scenario makes provision for the rehearsal of tasks for "peacekeeping forces' defense of a country suffering aggression."

The aim of the exercise is to improve the training of commanders of all levels in planning operations, command and control, and organizing and maintaining cooperation between subunits in the performance of peacekeeping missions in a conflict zone.

And to formulate unified views of the tactics used by peacekeeping forces' subunits in the performance of the relevant missions. To enhance servicemen's field proficiency and individual training, their teamwork, coordination, and readiness to act as part of multinational peacekeeping forces.

The compatibility of the organizational structures and technical systems of the various countries' contingents when conducting peacekeeping operations in a conflict zone will also be studied during the exercise.

Another task is to secure coordination and mutual understanding in the work of the multinational staffs.

One multinational battalion of four companies consisting of three platoons apiece has been formed. The first company contains platoons from Ukraine, Slovakia, and Hungary. The second contains a U.S. platoon and two platoons from Ukraine, the third consists of Russia, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic, while the fourth is made up of Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

The first (main) phase of the exercises will cover the period 3 through 6 June. Drills will be carried out at several training sites. Twelve in all have been equipped. The first training site will rehearse questions of equipping a security post and special operations involved in the performance of guard functions; the second — the equipment of checkpoints, performance of duties by checkpoint personnel, and security measures; the third — foot and motorized patrols, patrol methods, patrol planning and manning; the fourth — the escort of humanitarian freight and VIP's; the fifth — familiarization with mines, mine laying and mine clearing methods; the sixth — rescue work amid ruined buildings and seats of fire, and aid for and evacuation of casualties; the seventh — escort of refugees, equipment of refugee assembly points, supervision of civilian movements; the eighth — the protection of command posts, airfields, and other important installations; the ninth — the procedure for using communications systems and conducting radio and telephone conversations, and familiarization with exercise participants' communications systems; the tenth — the rehearsal of operations as conducted by rapid-reaction subunits; the eleventh — rescue work on water, and moving large groups of people across water obstacles; the twelfth — familiarization with the exercise participants' firearms, and the use of firearms.

The second phase of the exercise — 7-8 June — involves comprehensive rehearsal of these missions.

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## Russia: Euratom, Russia Exchange Nuclear Monitoring Know-How

*MM0406134296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "The Atom Under Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second international conference dedicated to problems of guarantees of the nonproliferation, recording, and monitoring of nuclear materials opened in Novosibirsk yesterday.

It is being conducted by Euratom, the Russian Federal Inspectorate for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, and the Ministry of Atomic Energy. The conference program envisages an exchange of experience between Western and Russian experts and an examination of the results of cooperation between Russia and the Euratom countries in ensuring guarantees of the nonproliferation, monitoring, and recording of nuclear materials.

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## Russia: 'West Cuts Back Support for Russian Nuclear Plant Safety'

*LD0506102896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0910 GMT 5 Jun 96*

["West Cuts Back Support for Russian Nuclear Plant Safety" — INTERFAX headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Interfax) — Western financing of projects and research into better safety of Russian nuclear power plants is being cut, deputy head of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry's foreign relations department Gennadiy Nefedov told Interfax.

This year Western financing for nuclear power, including the European program of technical assistance to the Commonwealth member-states (TASIS), will drop by 20 percent as compared to 1995, he said.

The West has, however, increased its support to projects on better safety of Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

Russia has received some $500 million for modernization of its nuclear plants in the past five years, said the official.

Specialists of the energy committee of the Chernomyrdin-Gore Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation have completed studies of investment needs and prospects for the Russian power industry for the next 15 years. They think Russia should modernize its older nuclear plants rather than replacing them with traditional energy sources, said Nefedov.

Russia currently has nine nuclear power plants equipped with 29 power units, total capacity reaching 21.24

gigawatts. Nine of the units have unreliable first-generation reactors (the RBMK and VVER-200 types). The power plants account for 12 percent of Russia's electrical output.

### Russia: Russia To Invest $60 Million in Nuclear Plant in Iran

*LD0406124496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 4 (Interfax) — Russia is to spend $60 million on building a nuclear-power plant in the Iranian province of Bushehr in 1996. The total worth of the Russian-Iranian project is about $800 million.

The Russian side, represented by the Zarubezhatomenergostroy concern, is planning to conclude a series of contracts with Iranian firms on providing facilities for completing the construction of the nuclear-power plant, Gennadiy Nefedov, the deputy head of the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy's Foreign Relations Department, told Interfax. The construction of the project was initiated by Germany's Siemens but terminated for political reasons.

Nefedov announced that Russian experts have already made a technical analysis of the construction site in Bushehr. More than $2 million have been spent on this work.

However, the final construction project has not been drawn yet. It is not clear so far what equipment and facilities, already available, should be replaced completely. Presently, about 200 Russian atomic-energy experts are working in Iran.

The contract on completing the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant was signed by Russia and Iran in 1995. The nuclear power plant is to have four units, including one 1,000 megawatt unit, and two 440 megawatt units (3rd and 4th units) with VVER [water-cooled, water moderated] reactors. The capacity of the 2nd unit has not been defined yet.

The Russian Minister for Atomic Energy will train Iranian personnel in the training center of the Novovoronezh nuclear power plant.

### Russia: Duma Wants Action To End 'Human Tragedy' in Iraq

*MM0506103296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Jun 96 p 6*

[Unattributed report: "In the State Duma: End the Suffering of Civilians. Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Adopts Statement 'On the Situation in the Republic of Iraq'" — from the "Documents" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] Welcoming the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Republic of Iraq and the UN Secretariat regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 986 (1995), the State Duma regards this decision as a step toward the speediest stage-by-stage lifting of the sanctions against the Republic of Iraq.

The economic embargo on the Republic of Iraq, the statement says, has resulted in a dramatic deterioration in the position of the Iraqi people, which is acquiring the scale of a national catastrophe. The overwhelming majority of the country's population are on the verge of death as a result of chronic malnutrition and lack of medicines. Infant mortality has risen considerably. A critical epidemiological situation has developed in a number of areas. Passivity and indifference are intolerable in the face of the human tragedy in Iraq. The State Duma believes that the Iraqi people's tragedy confirms the need to review the practice of the UN use of coercive economic measures.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Republic of Iraq and the UN Secretariat, the statement points out, opens up an opportunity to partially meet the Iraqi population's primary needs via oil exports. That is an important step, which will help ease the humanitarian crisis in the country. But this interim measure must not be allowed to be seen as an alternative to the implementation of Point 22 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 (1991) on lifting the embargo or to relegate to the backburner the resolution of the main task — lifting the sanctions and ending the sufferings of the civilian population.

While noting the importance of resolving the remaining questions in relations between the United Nations and the Republic of Iraq, the State Duma believes it necessary to observe the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq. International measures against Iraq must not be a means of realizing objectives not set by UN Security Council resolutions.

The State Duma advises the Russian Federation President and the Russian Federation Government to raise the question at the UN Security Council of gradually lifting the coercive economic measures against the Republic of Iraq, mindful of the extent to which Baghdad implements the relevant UN Security Council resolutions; to insist on speeding up the work of the UN Special Commission tackling Iraqi disarmament issues; to take steps to extend humanitarian aid to the Republic of Iraq and also to increase UN Security Council-permitted commodity shipments to the Republic of Iraq and conduct talks with the Iraqi leadership as regards using the opportunities that have opened up in connection with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Republic of Iraq and the UN Secretariat to develop Russian-Iraqi economic cooperation; and to take a number of steps to develop ties between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Iraq in the spheres of health, education, science, culture, information, and sport.

## Russia: Moscow Encourages Trade With Iraq After Break in UN Embargo

*LD0406124896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 4 (Interfax) — The Russian Foreign and Foreign Economic Relations ministries are calling on businessmen to develop commercial relations with Iraq under a temporary relaxation in the United Nations embargo.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin reminded a Tuesday briefing that a memorandum of mutual understanding was signed by the U.N. Secretariat and Iraq May 20 on the procedure for realizing U.N. Security Council Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to export $2 billion of oil over six month in order to pay for humanitarian aid.

"This means that Russian companies can buy and transport Iraqi oil along with companies from other countries," he said.

"Russian companies hoping to participate in commercial operations within the framework of the U.N. resolution and memorandum must make contact with the corresponding government organizations in Iraq and, if mutual interest is there, sign a contract, realizing that it will only take effect after going through the necessary procedures in the Security Council Sanctions Committee and the U.N. Secretariat," Demurin said.

"Russian companies must give the U.N. a copy of their contract and other information on the deal through the foreign ministry in order to receive authorization," he said.

## Political Issues

### Russia: Yeltsin Orders Finance Ministry To Clear Rostov Region Debt

*LD0406193596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1226 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has backed Rostov Region Governor Vladimir Chub, who requested financial assistance to clear the arrears of the regional pension fund and to pay for the annual leave of staff of educational establishments, Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev has told correspondents of Russia's news agencies.

Medvedev said that the overall debt of the Rostov Region's pension fund amounts to 161 billion rubles. This situation leads to social tension in the region. Medvedev said that Yeltsin has instructed the Finance Ministry and other departments to clear the debt within three days.

### Russia: Yeltsin Adviser Warns Against Bolsheviks' Return to Power

*BR0406142196 Paris LE FIGARO in French 4 Jun 96 p 5*

[Interview with Aleksandr Yakovlev, adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Irina de Chikoff in Moscow; date not given: "Aleksandr Yakovlev: 'The Bolsheviks Will Destroy Russia'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — Aleksandr Yakovlev, 73, is considered the true "architect of perestroyka." He was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in charge of the propaganda department under the Communist regime. An academic, adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev and then Boris Yeltsin, he is also chairman of the Commission for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression as well as of the board of directors of ORT, the leading Russian TV station.

[De Chikoff] How do you, as someone who was a member of the Russian Communist Party [RCP] from 1943 to 1991, assess the RCP today?

[Yakovlev] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union numbered 11.5 million members. The RCP claims to have 500,000 members. It is people who are enraged, offended, or dazed who have remained in the party. Of course there are intelligent people among the party's leadership, but they have proven incapable of developing intellectually. We are being made to forget how to think. The brainwashing has succeeded where they are concerned. It is an anachronistic political entity.

[De Chikoff] What will happen if the candidate of the Popular Patriotic Bloc wins the presidential election?

[Yakovlev] If the Bolsheviks return to power they will destroy Russia. The Russians will disappear just as the Incas, Huns, or Scythians did. Let us consider the matter of the minimum and maximum economic program. I do not know exactly which version is the right one, but I can tell you this: The Bolsheviks only know how to do one thing: take and redistribute. After two attempted coups d'etat which failed in 1991 and 1993, the same men are trying to return to power, this time by resorting to democratic procedures. Russia will not withstand another upheaval. It will cease to exist.

[De Chikoff] Has the civil war we are talking about not become a specter that each side is raising so as to instill fear into its opponents?

[Yakovlev] A civil war remains perfectly feasible. You know how it could start? The manager of a kolkhoz gathers his agricultural workers around him, pours vodka down their throats, and sends the whole gang to the farmer to plunder him in the name of the "people." The farmer will resist. All those who own property will oppose these self-professed upholders of law. It will be a chain of events.

[De Chikoff] In Central and Eastern Europe the communists have transformed themselves into social democrats. Why has Russia, which was where the wave of reform started out, remained on the sidelines of this general trend?

[Yakovlev] We are coming from further away than the countries in Central Europe. You cannot change mentalities, shaped by 1,000 years of history without any notion of justice, in 11 years of perestroyka and democratic reforms. We have always had bosses, whether a boyar, starets, czar, or secretary general. Dostoyevsky once wrote that bit by bit the Russians must eradicate the slave within them. We have not yet succeeded in doing this. It will take 150 revolutions before we become free men because there are 150 million of us. Russia was built on fear and misery. The fear has not disappeared. I feel it returning. It derives from the blood shed by 60 million dead victims in camps or war between 1917 and 1991.

[De Chikoff] If I ask you the traditional question, namely who is to blame, what is your reply?

[Yakovlev] The government has committed unforgivable errors. If these idiots had not abandoned entire sectors of the population... The people are not going to vote for the restoration of communism, but against the current regime. Nonetheless, I cannot believe it. I tell myself that the voters will regain their senses. Will Russia not live forever? If we succeed in saving these elections, in four years the danger will be eradicated. Russia will get off the ground. The democrats, who are starting to come to their senses, will join forces.

[De Chikoff] The communists call you the "architect of destruction" and are talking of putting you on trial. Has your view of the RCP not been influenced by this personal threat?

[Yakovlev] I am past the age of being afraid and at home I have a revolver. I am telling you so that anyone coming near my house knows this.

### Russia: Foreign Economics Official Cited on Imported Goods

*LD0506105696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Interfax) — Russian economic transformations have reached such a stage that it is possible to move on from the saturation of the domestic market with any goods to its saturation with mostly domestic products, Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Interfax.

"Many opponents are criticizing the government for filling the market with imported goods. Yes, we did. We had to fill the empty shelves in shops, because neither ours nor anybody else's commodities were available," said the minister. This fact is "hushed up by unscrupulous critics."

"The task of saturating the market was a key one at the first stage of the reforms against the background of total deficit. This task has been mostly fulfilled," said the minister.

"Now we have the economic conditions for another task — that of reviving the domestic industry and supplying domestic products to the Russian market. Imports will be forced out from the Russian market as soon as the economy is structurally reorganized and investments in production grow larger," he added.

For instance, previously $600 million worth of Mars chocolate bars from the U.S. Mars company were imported. Now the bars are made in Stupino, the Moscow region and the company has invested $140 million in the factory.

The Stupino factory "does not compete with anyone. It uses mostly Russian raw materials, has production relations with other Russian factories, uses Russian transport and trade, and not only manufactures a popular product but also creates new jobs. Russia has even started to export the chocolate bars to Ukraine," said Davydov.

There are many similar investment projects, noted the minister. "All of them are ready for fulfillment within a short time as soon as the presidential elections bring a favorable result for the current policy of reforms," he said.

### Russia: Soskovets Tells Regions To Solve Own Problems

*LD0506091696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, is holding a telephone conference in Moscow today on the functioning of transport and energy supplies, as well as the social and economic situation in the regions. Yesterday, Oleg Soskovets returned from a trip to Tyumen, where he had the opportunity to get to grips personally with the region's urgent problems.

[Correspondent Gostiyeva] Oleg Soskovets was pleased with the performance of the Tyumen leadership. According to him, it has been possible to improve social conditions there despite the oil region's financial difficulties. Even housing construction is increasing.

Less optimism was voiced by other eastern regions in the country during today's telephone link. There are common problems in Yakutia, Krasnoyarsk Kray, and Magadan arising from the impossibility of paying for winter fuel imports and chronic delays in paying centrally-funded employees their wages. Local leaders are hoping for help from the government and draw attention to a readiness to strike on the eve of the elections. But the first deputy prime minister gave the regional authorities a rather tough recommendation to be a little more independent when tackling financial problems.

[Begin Soskovets recording] Why are you waiting until the money comes from Moscow — until, in the final analysis, the expenditure is endorsed by the Duma? There are a lot of banks that are keen to work with you today or to participate in the share capital of enterprises, or else to service various requirements, including export requirements. I would ask you, when all is said and done, to make use of this facility. After all, life must go on in the localities. [end recording]

### Russia: Majority Backs Luzhkov Candidacy for Moscow Mayor

*LD0506114596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Yuriy Luzhkov's candidature to the post of Moscow Mayor was backed by 79 per cent of the people covered by a telephone poll, carried out in Moscow from May 28-30 by the independent "Mneniye" (Opinion) service. However, eleven per cent of the electorate is still undecided and six per cent said they would not take part in the elections. Moreover, four per cent of the respondents refused to name their favourite candidate.

Eighty-four per cent of the respondents said that they had definitely decided whom to vote for, but eight per cent of those polled said they could alter their decision during the time left before the elections. And although the picture is sufficiently clear, sociologists warn that the results of various polls cannot be regarded as a forecast of the election results.

The poll covered 1,060 people split up into groups according to sex, age, education, and occupation.

### Russia: New St. Petersburg Governor Stresses Support for Yeltsin

*LD0406183196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1535 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Summary] During a 25-minute live interview with Vladimir Yakovlev, new governor of St. Petersburg, during the "Hero of the Day" program, Yakovlev reiterates his support for Boris Yeltsin and calls for "all healthy forces" to unite around the president in the presidential elections. The interview is shown in a link-up with St. Petersburg television.

Yakovlev refuses to comment on the fact that spokesmen for the Communist Party had welcomed his victory, and that his main electorate had come from St. Petersburg's working-class districts. In response to a suggestion that he had "involuntarily become the voice of the hopes and interests of those forces that do not intend to vote for Yeltsin," Yakovlev says: "Does it not seem to you that in St. Petersburg we managed to do the main thing — we united around us all the main democratic forces, too. That is very important because we set ourselves the chief task of ensuring that there should be civic accord and peace in the city" and that everything done in the city should be aimed toward enhancing citizens' prosperity.

Following a report from St. Petersburg by NTV Television correspondent Pavel Lobkov on the background to the acrimonious election campaign and the allegations that the "hand of Moscow" was behind support for Yakovlev, the latter refused to comment on his relations with Sobchak and with leaders in Moscow.

Yakovlev says that no pressure would be put on the St. Petersburg media, which published many critical articles against Yakovlev. With regard to the administration of former Mayor Sobchak, Yakovlev says: "If there have been any infringements, there are appropriate bodies to investigate this. I will not be sorting out these infringements." Our task lies elsewhere in achieving civic accord, he adds. Likewise, it is not the governor who should establish whether former mayor Sobchak has any case to answer to, Yakovlev says.

## Military & Nuclear Issues

### Russia: Ministry Forum Assesses Work of Military Press Centers

*MM0406160196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 1*

["Own information" report: "The Armed Forces' Press Centers Are Open to Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 500 groups of mass media representatives visited combined units, units, and establishments of the Russian Armed Forces in the winter training period. Over 2,000 journalists received answers to questions addressed to the military department, and 80 news conferences and briefings were held with them. This indicator attests not only to the increased attention given by the press to life in the country's Armed Forces but also to the degree of openness of the Defense Ministry and its readiness to conduct a concrete dialogue on any questions, including the most acute questions of the vital activity of the Army and Navy.

How can this dialogue be made more productive? How can objective and professional coverage of the Army's problems be achieved in the mass media, and how are we to answer society's question about the real processes occurring in the Armed Forces?

This was discussed at an assembly of chiefs of press centers of the branches of the Armed Forces and of military districts and fleets held at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry 28-30 May.

The Defense Ministry Information Directorate made a detailed analysis of the press centers' work and outlined specific ways to organize the timely and objective briefing of the Russian and foreign public. Special attention was devoted to the press centers' activities in Chechnya and other "hot spots." The assembly participants were informed of the instructions of Russian

Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev about improving the work of information structures. V. Kucher, chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff's Information and Propaganda Administration and chief editor of the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, shared experience of work with the press under the present conditions.

A practical exercise took place at the Air Force Press Center, where work with journalists is noted for being on the better side.

On 29 May the press center chiefs participated in a conference of Armed Forces leadership personnel to sum up the results of the winter training period, which was addressed by Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin.

An order of the Russian defense minister awarded valuable gifts to Colonels G. Lisenkov, V. Guryanov, and Ya. Firsov, chiefs of the press centers of the Air Force and the Moscow and North Caucasus Military Districts, for their high professional skill and creative approach to work.

Army General Grachev presented inscribed watches to Colonels L. Gusev and V. Shcheblanin, chiefs of the Ural and Transbaykal Military District Press Centers, for conscientious execution of their official duties during recent working trips to those regions.

### Russia: Statute on Controlling Dual-Purpose Exports Approved

*MM0406092196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 May 96 p 3*

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 575 "On Approving the Statute on the Procedure Governing Control of the Export from the Russian Federation of Dual-Purpose Equipment and Materials and the Corresponding Technologies Utilized for Nuclear Purposes Whose Export Is Controlled," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 8 May 1996 — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 228 "On Controlling the Export from the Russian Federation of Dual-Purpose Equipment and Materials and the Corresponding Technologies Utilized for Nuclear Purposes Whose Export Is Controlled," dated 21 February 1996 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 9, 1996, p 802), I decree that:

1. The appended Statute "On the Procedure Governing Control of the Export from the Russian Federation of Dual-Purpose Equipment and Materials and the Corresponding Technologies Utilized for Nuclear Purposes Whose Export Is Controlled" (Footnote) (Published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's Business in Russia supplement 18 May) be approved.

2. The Russian Federal Service for Currency and Export Control, the Russian Federation Ministry for Atomic Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Russian Federation State Customs Committee shall exercise control over the export from the Russian Federation of dual-purpose equipment and materials and the corresponding technologies utilized for nuclear purposes whose export is controlled.

3. The following be deemed inoperative:

Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 68 "On Approving the Statute 'On Controlling the Export from the Russian Federation of Dual-Purpose Equipment and Materials and the Corresponding Technologies Utilized for Nuclear Purposes Whose Export Is Controlled,'" dated 27 January 1993 (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 5, 1993, p 395);

Paragraph 1 of the changes and additions made to certain Russian Federation Government decisions approved by Decree No. 556, dated 3 June 1995 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 24, 1995, p 2283).

4. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to send International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Hans Blix a note confirming the Russian Party's agreement to the changes to the Guiding Principles Governing the Transfer of Dual-Purpose Equipment and Materials and the Corresponding Technologies Utilized for Nuclear Purposes made by the countries belonging to the Group of Nuclear Suppliers at the session held in Helsinki in April 1995 and at the Group of Nuclear Suppliers' consultative conference on the procedure governing control over dual-purpose items held in Vienna in October 1995.

5. This decree shall be enacted at the same time as Russian Federation presidential edict No. 228, dated 21 February 1996.

[signed] Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[dated] 8 May 1996, Moscow

## Federal Assembly

### Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 26 May-1 Jun

*96P50089*

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation ;TextV have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

**SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

Government 23 March Directive No. 458 Endorsing Proposal For St. Petersburg To Host September Annual Session Of Organization For Fishing In Northwest Atlantic, Authorizing Funding. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (150)

Government 1 April Directive No. 496 Ordering Quarterly Audit Of State Enterprises' Gas Debts. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (150)

Government 3 April Directive No. 527 On Paying Conversion Money To Cash- strapped Strela Arms Plant. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (200)

Government 3 April Directive No. 531 Allocating Money To Chukot Region For Disaster Relief. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (80)

Government 3 April Directive No. 545 Permitting Ministries To Sell Off Unwanted Military Supplies Other Than Weapons, Ammunition. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 6) (100)

Government 12 April Directive No. 558 Authorizing Finance Ministry To Raise R50 Billion Credit With Menatep Bank For Belgorod Oblast Administration To Fund Individual Housing Construction In Countryside. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (150)

Government 12 April Directive No. 587 Reviewing Need For State Holding In Rybinskiye Motory Defense Plant, Rescinding 'Open' Status.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 6) (150)

Government 23 April Decree No. 498 On Urgent Measures To Create Economic Conditions For Stabilizing Textile, Light Industry In 1996-1997, Plus Yevgeniy Skukin Commentary.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (1500/800)

Government 23 April Decree No. 500 Assenting To Finance, Economy Ministry Proposal To One-Year Extension Of Loan Repayment Term For Textile, Light Industry Enterprises.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (50)

Government 23 April Decree No. 516 On Setting Up Import-Export Insurance Company.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (450)

Government 23 April Decree No. 524 On State Support For New Car Plant In Kaliningrad Oblast.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (450)

Government 23 April Directive No. 671 Accepting Proposal From Finance Ministry, Federation Component Executive Authorities On Rescheduling Budget Loan Repayments For Various Regions.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (100) (Text)

Government 1 May Decree No. 532 On State Support For Migrants Into Tula Oblast.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (950)

Government 1 May Decree No. 536 On Organizing All-Russia Seminar On 'Reforms And The Development Of Trade.'

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (450)

Government 1 May Decree No. 546 On Retaining Shares In Transinzhstroy Firm Longer In State Control.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (250)

Government 8 May Decree No. 554 On Implementing Edict Transferring Federally Owned Shares In Privatized Companies To Local Ownership.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (300)

Government 8 May Decree No. 555 On Submission Ot Draft Edict On Establishment Of Tyumen Oil

Science And Technology Center Joint-Stock Company For Examination By RF President.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 8) (200)

Government 8 May Decree No. 560 On Reorganizing State Energy Inspectorate.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (500)

Government 8 May Directive No. 726 Announcing Intention To Submit To Parliament Amendments To Existing Farmland Ownership Law.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (200)

Government 12 May Decree No. 578 Forming Government Commission For Improvement Of Tax Legislation Under First Vice Premier Kadannikov, Plus Text Of Commission Statute. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (100/800)

Amendments To 8 October 1993 Regulations Governing Sale Of Food, Other Goods As Ratified By Government 17 May Decree No. 595. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 9) (750)

Government 17 May Decree No. 597 [sic; see below] Approving Procedure For Utilization Of Compulsory Payments For Reproduction Of Mineral, Raw Material Resources, Exemption Of Users Of Minerals From Such Payments. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (250)

Procedure For Funding Mineral Prospecting, Exploitations As Ratified By Government 17 May Decree No. 597 [sic; see above]. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 9) (1750)

Statute On State Financing Of Measures To Restructure Coal Industry Approved By Government 17 May Decree No. 598. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 8) (2000)

Government Statute Ratified By 17 May Decree No. 607 Setting Up Food Commission Under Deputy Premier Zaveryukha. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 9) (1400)

Government 17 May Directive No. 777 Allocating Emergencies Ministry R7.5 Billion To Fund Work Involved In Tracing Tu-154 Which Crashed In Kharabarovsk Kray In December 1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (50)

Yeltsin 19 May Edict No. 737 On Additional State Support For Economic, Social Development Of Siberia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (500)

Government 21 May Decree No. 620 On Interkhimprom Financial And Industrial Group, With Appended List Of Companies Within It. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 8) (200)

Yeltsin 22 May Directive No. 258 Listing Individuals Granted Life Pension Supplements For Services To The Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (450)

Yeltsin 22 May Edict No. 265 Dismissing Social Insurance Fund Chairman Shatyrenko. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 1)

Yeltsin 22 May Edict No. 748 On Additional Social Guarantees For Sportsmen, Physical Culture, Sports, Tourism Workers. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (450)

Yeltsin 23 May Edict No. 757 On Support For People Migrating From Arctic Regions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (1100)

Yeltsin 23 May Edict No. 765 On Setting Up Industrial Base To Serve Arctic Shelf Oil And Gas Industry. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (800)

Yeltsin 23 May Edict No. 769 On Organizing Drawing Up Of Guidelines For Fixing Local Budget Financing Levels For Social Purposes At Local Level. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (300)

Government 24 May Directive No. 825 Allocating Aid For Svetogorsk Apartment Bloc Explosion Victims. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 1) (100)

Yeltsin 24 May Edict No. 776 On Support For Arkhangelsk Oblast Economy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (300)

Government 27 May Decree No. 642 On State Support For Arkhangelsk Oblast Economy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30

Federal Law No. 55 Dated 27 May On Raising, Indexing Pensions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 1) (400)

## SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 12 April Directive No. 590 Setting Up Fund For Innovation In Higher Education. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (200)

Government 12 April Directive No. 591 On Environmental Protection Of Black Sea, Azov Sea Coastal Areas. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 6) (600)

Government 13 April Directive No. 593 Accepting Proposal From Culture Ministry, Various Government Departments That They Become Co-Founders Of The 'Russian Culture Foundation' Noncommercial Organization. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (400)

Government 16 April Directive No. 609 Allocating Money To Moscow Firm For Radiological Clean-Up Work. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 6) (100)

Government 23 April Decree No. 503 On Foreign Holidays For Chernobyl Children. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (650)

Government 23 April Decree No. 511 Extending Daylight-Saving Summer Time To October. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (50) (Text)

Government 23 April Decree No. 520 On Future Of Uspenskiy Monastery In Vladimir Oblast. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (450)

Government 23 April Decree No. 527 Approving Amendments, Additions To Statute On State Nature. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5)

Government 23 April Directive No. 662 Endorsing Plan For $100 Million Turkish Eximbank Credit To Finance Moscow Government Project For Downtown Hotel And Business Construction Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (300)

Government 23 April Directive No. 663 Endorsing Necessity To Raise Investment Credit Of Up To DM800 Million From German Banks To Fund 'Moskovskiy Torgovyy Dom' Project For Manezh Square Retail And Recreation Project In Moscow. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (300)

Government 23 April Directive No. 684 Sanctioning Talks With Iraqi Higher Education Ministry On Cooperation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (80) (Text)

Government 1 May Decree No. 537 Approving Statute On Federal Commission On Lotteries And Gaming. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (600)

Government 1 May Decree No. 541 Extending Term For Implementation Of Various Federal Targeted Programs Into 1996. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (600)

Government 1 May Decree No. 543 Setting Up Council To Deal With Special Awards In Education Sphere, Plus Council's Terms Of Reference. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (700)

Government 1 May Directive No. 702 Tasking Various Ministries, Government Departments With Actions To Implement Accords Reached By Sixth Session Of Russian-U.S. Commission For Economic And Technological Cooperation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (1500)

Yeltsin 6 May Edict No. 651 Listing Members Of New Presidential Commission On Women's, Family Matters, Demography. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 4) (700)

Government 8 May Decree No. 559 Designating Ministries Responsible For Formulating Draft State Strategy For Sustainable Development, Setting Timetable For Submissions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (750)

Government 8 May Decree No. 562 On Expanding Area Of 'Chernyye Zemli' State Nature Biosphere Reserve. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (400)

Government 8 May Decree No. 563 Regulating Trade In Ozone-Unfriendly Products Plus Associated Statute. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (200/1400)

Government 8 May Decree No. 567 Listing 'Social' Grounds For Abortion. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (250)

Correction To Yeltsin 8 May Edict No. 688 On Priority Support For Defense Complex Enterprises. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 5) (150) (Text)

Government 12 May Decree No. 576 On Staging 'Russia-97' Exhibition And Fair In Moscow Next Year.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (200)

Yeltsin 15 May Edict No. 717 Setting Maximum Number Of Employees Of Foreign Ministry Central Apparatus At 3,200.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (100)

Constitutional Court 16 May Resolution No. 12 On Article 18 Paragraph C Of Citizenship Law, Answering Complaint From One A.B. Smirnov.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 5) (2800)

Duma 17 May Decree No. 359-ii On Conducting Presidential Elections At Constitutional Time.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (500) (Text)

Government 17 May Decree No. 587 Setting Up State-Run 'Radio-l' Radio Station.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (300)

Government 17 May Decree No. 588 Setting Up State-Run 'Yunost' Radio Station, Plus Interview On It With Station Director Yevgeniy Pavlov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (300/700)

Government 17 May Decree No. 590 Approving 'Program Of Measures For Supporting Our Countrymen Abroad,' Plus Text Of Program, Plus Sergey Karkhanin Commentary.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (300/4500/1000)

Government 17 May Decree No. 599 Approving Statute On Interdepartmental Commission On Improving The Status Of Women, Plus Text Of Statute.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 5) (150/950)

Government 17 May Decree No. 607 Ratifying Statute On Government Food Commission.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 6) (500)

Government 17 May Directive No. 780 On Compensating Main Protection Directorate For Expenditure In Chechnya.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (80) (Text)

Government 21 May Directive No. 805 On Sending Delegation To Geneva Conference On Refugees, Plus Natalya Kozlova Commentary.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 96 p 3) (200/300)

Yeltsin 22 May Directive No. 257 Approving New Membership Of Joint Commission For Coordination Of Legislative Activity, Appointing A.N. Shokhin Chairman, Plus Listing Of Complete Membership.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (100/1100)

Yeltsin 22 May Directive No. 262 Assenting To Defense Ministry Proposal For 26 June State Kremlin Palace Reception For Top Military Academy Graduates.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (150)

Yeltsin 22 May Directive No. 263 Appointing Yevgeniy Mikhaylov Presidential Representative In Tajikistan.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 p 3) (500) (Text)

Yeltsin 23 May Edict No. 763 On Procedure For Publication, Enactment Of Presidential, Governmental Acts, Normative Legal Acts Of Federal Executive Organs, Plus Listing Of Presidential Acts Rendered Null And Void As A Result.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 96 pp 1, 3) (1700)

Texts Of Federal Laws Nos. 46 Through 53, All Given Yeltsin Assent 23 May, Ratifying Agreements On Reciprocal Encouragement, Protection For Capital Investments Signed With Sweden, Czech Republic, Albania, Kuwait, India, Vietnam, And Hungary Plus Technical Financial Cooperation Agreement With Switzerland.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 96 p 4) (100 each)

Yeltsin 27 May Edict No. 778 Instituting 1995 State Literature, Art Prizes.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 1) (100)

Yeltsin 27 May Edict No. 780 Awarding 1996 Pushkin Prize.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 1) (50)

Yeltsin 28 May Edict No. 789 Ordering Publication Of, Public Debate On Draft Power-Sharing Treaty With Chechen Republic.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 May 96 p 4) (200) (Text)

Yeltsin 28 May Edict No. 791 Shortening Draft Period For Servicemen Involved In Military Action.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 May 96 p 5) (200)

Yeltsin 29 May Edict No. 790 Formalizing Removal From Office Of Bryansk Oblast Administrator Vladimir Barabanov.

(Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 May 96 p 2) (50)

## SECTION III:

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Russia: Grachev Hopes Duma Will Ratify START II

*LD0406154096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PERVOMAYSK, June 4 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Russian government policy provides for ratifying the START-2 strategic arms reduction treaty and beginning to draft a START-3 treaty, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said while visiting the area of a destroyed missile silo some 60 kilometers away from Pervomaysk in Ukraine's Nikolayev region on Tuesday.

To this effect, he voiced the hope that the Russian State Duma, the national parliament's lower chamber, would ratify the START-2 treaty.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has more than once spoken out in favor of banning nuclear tests, Grachev said. "Unfortunately, not all of the nuclear powers heed the Russian president's opinion," he said.

### Russia: Duma Chair 'Rejoices' Over Yakovlev St. Petersburg Win

*MK0406123396 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Ivan Rodin: "Yakovlev Is Hailed at the Duma. In the Opinion of Many Deputies, the Main Thing Is That Sobchak Has Lost"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the whole, the reaction of Duma members to the victory of the more "business-minded" Vladimir Yakovlev in the St. Petersburg gubernatorial election was very favorable. Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev said yesterday that he "rejoiced" at Mr. Yakovlev's victory. In his words: "It is one thing to sing like a bird, at which Anatoliy Aleksandrovich [Sobchak] is so good, but it is quite another thing to work hard every day." Mr. Seleznev believes that the leader of such a big and problematic city as St. Petersburg "needs to be a normal business manager and an administrator." In this connection, Gennadiy Seleznev recalled Mr. Sobchak's ironical comments about Mr. Luzhkov's cap, and the constant visits the latter makes to construction sites. [Luzhkov is Mayor of Moscow] In Mr. Seleznev's opinion, it is precisely the duty of a true mayor to visit construction sites and sewerage facilities rather than "receive princesses and arrange balls."

Valentin Kuptsov, head of Gennadiy Zyuganov's election headquarters, said that Sobchak lost the election because he represented the so-called "democratic establishment," and, in Mr. Kuptsov's opinion, the Communists had long talked about this. He called Vladimir Yakovlev "a wise man," who would probably do the right thing if he included some representative of the opposition in the St. Petersburg government. As for Anatoliy Sobchak, Valentin Kuptsov feels sure that society has already gotten tired of politicians of this kind.

Representatives of other political forces in the Duma expressed similar views, although with less political bias. There was, however, one negative opinion. It was voiced by Vyacheslav Marychev — one of the main adversaries of Mr. Sobchak in the previous Duma and a hapless candidate for governor who was denied registration by the city electoral commission — who happened to be in the Duma yesterday. Marychev did not see any difference between the loser and the winner and felt sure that Moscow had denied its support to the former mayor, because on 17 December 1995 he ensured good results for the Yabloko movement.

## Regional Affairs

### Russia: Yeltsin Interviewed by Kaliningrad Paper

*WS0406123796 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 May 96 p 3*

[Interview with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin by KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent B. Nisnevich; place and date not given: "Russia's Tranquility — the Goal of the Restless President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nisnevich] **Boris Nikolayevich, have you not forgotten Kaliningrad? Do you sometimes recall us?**

[Yeltsin] Of course I do. Since my meetings in Kaliningrad in 1992, I have already signed more than one edict on serious measures for improving the socioeconomic situation and developing foreign economic activities in this westernmost Russian oblast.

I always take into account the "Kaliningrad factor" in international affairs. When I held talks with Kohl, Lukashenka, and Kwasniewski, I always remembered the interests of the people who ended up in this Russian kray, which is separated from the center. I said "kray" [in Russian also means edge, end] and I had in mind the other meaning of this word. Kaliningrad is not Russia's end, but its beginning in the west. This is the beginning of Russian land, and not someone else's. I address this to those who would like to rename your city in a Lithuanian, Polish, or German manner.

I recall the Kaliningrad land also because I had many warm impressions of the people, seaside towns, Svetlogorsk, and the settlement of Yantarnyy. I was impressed by the art of craftsmen who processed unique nuggets. I can still see this moment — when having dexterously removed the crust from an amber stone and having polished it, an artist put in my palm what was virtually a piece of the sun with a little cloud....

[Nisnevich] **I happened to be with you at that moment, and I saw the surprise in your eyes. The ability to be surprised in such a natural, almost childish manner speaks volumes for many things. However, in our country the president is known better for his ability to surprise either all of Russia or separate regions. For example, we were very surprised when literally a few days after signing the Law "On the Special Economic Zone in Kaliningrad Oblast," you sent the State Duma amendments to this document which essentially restricted activities of the local authorities and freedom in this "free zone." The local mass media voiced different suppositions in this regard: "The president wanted to show who is the master of the house," "The president decided to punish the local authorities which want to hold their elections along with the presidential ones."**

[Yeltsin] It is not as simple as it seems. First of all, the president never encroaches on the population's interests or takes revenge on the people, even if local leaders somehow provoke his discontent. Second, I think that the residents of the Kaliningrad region were not fully informed about the method of passing the law on the special economic zone. It had certain flaws even following its adoption by the Duma. However, I understood the oblast leadership's impatience during the signing of a treaty on dividing powers between the federal center and the local authorities. I promised to sign the law, knowing that some of its articles would have to be corrected. It was no secret. To a certain degree, your law suffered from the imperfection of federal legislation, which still does not define general principles of organizing state authorities in subjects of the Russian Federation. However, this should be corrected and will be regulated by the required normative acts. But, as far as I know the law is already in force and is helping to recover the oblast's economy.

[Nisnevich] **The instability of the legislative basis is the main reason behind the cautiousness of Western investors, on whom the oblast has pinned its hopes. For example, while foreign investments in the Polish economy totalled $7 billion last year, in Kaliningrad Oblast they amounted to $5.2 million. Can we (as well as Western investors) be sure that the Law "On the Special Economic Zone in Kaliningrad Oblast" will be a law of extended use, as the saying goes?**

[Yeltsin] Objectively, Russia has many unquestionable advantages in which foreign investors should be interested. They include the relatively low cost of labor, the large capacity of the domestic market, raw materials, and a geographic location between the well- developed EC countries and the quickly developing East Asian countries.

Kaliningrad Oblast, with all these features, is located in the center of Europe. However, to encourage investments here — I had in mind both Russian and foreign investments — favorable organizational and legal conditions are needed. Unfortunately, not everything depends on the president and the government in this sphere. Deputies to both chambers of the Federal Assembly bear the responsibility for creating a normal legal environment for investors.

It is clear that if there are no investments there is no economic development. As the president, I will do everything possible to create an influx of investments. This will determine a turn toward branches with advanced technologies and will make the prospects for economic development about which I recently spoke — defining that we will achieve at least a 5-percent growth in economic production in two or three years — real.

In this context, my answer to your question will be understandable: One can be convinced that the Law "On the Special Economic Zone in Kaliningrad Oblast" will remain in force for a long time.

[Nisnevich] **People in Russia will always find something to believe in — a revolution or shining future. In the "Memoirs of the President," you wrote about people mystically connected with a naive faith in waiting for better changes, comparing the Russians to children waiting for a New Year. What awaits those fascinated with reforms and those disappointed with them?**

[Yeltsin] This is a very large topic. At a congress of the All-Russian Movement for Public Support, I expressed my opinion on this. During five years, it has been impossible to complete the transformations which we began. The reforms have laid bare the defects of the former life and could shock many people. Some of our actions have not been free of mistakes. However, the point is that the great cause of reform must produce real results. I have appealed to the Russians: We must slightly correct the course, and we must do this together. To correct does not mean to change. This should be understood in order not to sow panic. The people should play the main role in reforms. The work which has already been conducted for five years now will be continued, and it has clear guidelines:

— a successful individual and a well-to-do family;

— a free society and a just state;

— a flourishing Russia.

Curbing inflation, pluralism, etc. are not the goals of our policy per se. The main things are the individual, his problems, the family, and spiritual tranquility.

As a matter of fact, speaking about this at a congress of my supporters, I repeated what I wrote a year ago in the "Memoirs," replying to the question as to where Yeltsin was leading. Yeltsin is not leading [Russia] to some shining peak which can only be reached after crossing out the entire road which was covered previously. The main goal of your restless president is Russia's tranquility.

[Nisnevich] **Is Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin afraid of being defeated in the elections? Is he monitoring polls?**

[Yeltsin] The president is not afraid of his personal defeat. He is afraid of a defeat of the cause which we, the Russians, began five years ago, and for which we voted at the presidential elections in 1991 and in the 1993 referendum. If these reforms are interrupted now, in five or ten years our children or grandchildren will have to begin them from scratch and complete them. But how much time will be wasted, how many sacrifices will be made in vain...

As for polls, [the voters] do not vote for polls, but for living people. Yeltsin has been "big politics" for 20 years. People saw how he worked in Sverdlovsk, the Moscow City Executive Committee, the "White House" [former parliament building], and the Kremlin. This is Yeltsin's fundamental difference and main advantage over the remaining presidential candidates.

[Nisnevich] **There is talk that the Kremlin is considering some "forceful scenarios" if Yeltsin is not elected.**

[Yeltsin] Yeltsin is not making such plans. He is making plans for his future work in the presidential office.

"Forceful scenarios?" Yes, [the Kremlin] is considering "forceful" scenarios: It is considering where the country would find the forces to survive yet another experiment if, God forbid, the country "elects" it to its detriment.

All the talk about a coup, which Yeltsin is allegedly preparing in case of his failure, is a provocation.

Yeltsin is a legitimate president elected by the people, and he will never stage a coup. Yes, he climbed atop a tank in 1991. Yes, he ordered the storming of the "White House" in 1993. However, all of this was to protect democracy and the legitimate authorities elected by the people.

## Russia: Moscow Seen Holding 'Secret' Talks on Replacing Zavgayev

*MK0506105796 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian*
*No. 22, 2-9 Jun 96 (signed to press 3 Jun 1996) p 1*

[Report by Sanobar Shermatova: "Is Moscow Preparing To Replace Zavgayev?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI has come to learn that the Russian side is conducting confidential talks with the Dudayev side on a successor for Doku Zavgayev, the current head of the republic. So far three candidates are being considered. At the top of the list — if one is to believe the information received by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI — is Ruslan Khasbulatov. This candidacy has met with mixed reaction among the Dudayevites, however. Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Dudayevite formations, allegedly responded with consent, whereas Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and Shamil Basayev objected categorically. The second candidate, Lecha Magomadov, is the current chairman of the National Accord Committee. He was appointed to this position by a Boris Yeltsin edict in the spring of 1995. The third on the list is Akhmed Arsanov, whose clan enjoys a great deal of prestige. He is former deputy forestry minister of the Chechen-Ingush Republic and deputy of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The reaction to these candidacies on the Dudayevite side is still unknown — one can assume, however, that this is precisely what is being discussed during the current secret consultations.

Is Moscow really going to replace Zavgayev? The Dudayevite side is trying to secure guarantees of personal safety after it has signed a peace treaty. One of these conditions is a Russian troop withdrawal. But in this event Zavgayev would not be able to hold on to power. It is perhaps for this reason that the Russian side has decided to test an option that involves Zavgayev's replacement. Will this prove possible to do by overcoming the resistance of those forces that have decided to fight "until final victory?" What will the legal arrangements be for the replacement of the republic's head? But the most important question is this: Is there a figure in Chechnya who would be able to unite all the Chechens, and would he be to the liking of both Moscow and the Dudayevites?

### Russia: Zavgayev Promises To Resign if Chechen Hostilities Resume

*LD0506120796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1128 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Interfax) — There will be no more large-scale hostilities in Chechnya, Chechen government head Doku Zavgayev told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday.

"If the hostilities resume, I will resign on the same day," he added.

All the troops, with the exception of detachments to be permanently based in Chechnya, should be withdrawn, said Zavgayev. "The withdrawal has been so far suspended because of provocations by extremists," he said.

Despite the complicated situation, Chechnya "has turned into a peace zone" and the inter-Chechen dialogue involves thousands of people, said the Chechen head. The Chechen authorities object to settlement by force and favor "only peace talks and persuasion," he noted.

"We do not have an opposition. We have people who are in conflict with the authorities and the people of the republic," said Zavgayev.

He announced the opening of a Chechen alternative press center in Moscow. This press center will "objectively cover the events and processes underway in Chechnya."

The press center will issue a "Chechen press" digest made of newspaper and magazine articles published in Groznyy and the North Caucasian Russian republics.

### Russia: Chernomyrdin Denies Zavgayev May Retire

*LD0406162396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 4 (Interfax) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has categorically denied that Moscow-backed Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev may retire.

Rumors about Zavgayev's possible retirement appeared in some Russian media earlier this week.

"I have no such information," Chernomyrdin said at a meeting with journalists in Moscow Tuesday. He stressed that Zavgayev was elected to the post by a vast majority of Chechen residents.

Chernomyrdin said he is scheduled to meet with Zavgayev Wednesday to discuss issues relating to the continuing talks in Nazran, the capital of Ingushetia, between the federal authorities and the Chechen separatists, as well as the implementation of the program of peace for Chechnya and the reconstruction of its economy and the social system.

The federal side abides by its stand on the Chechen settlement, he said.

"Firstly, it is necessary to stop the war, secondly, to begin reconstruction works and resolve social problems," said Chernomyrdin.

As for the upcoming presidential elections in Russia, he expressed confidence that incumbent Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be re-elected.

"We need [Yeltsin's] victory for the country to live calmly and in certainty," said Chernomyrdin. According to him, Russia needs a president "who will complete the market and democratic reforms."

Asked about proposals for a coalition government representing various political forces, Chernomyrdin said he saw "nothing bad in it."

"It is quite possible," he said, stressing that he was prepared to work in such a government.

The most important thing is that the government consist of experts and professionals, he said. "No matter what color they are — red or white — they will all become normal color soon afterwards," said Chernomyrdin.

Commenting on the results of the gubernatorial elections in St. Petersburg, he said that two representatives of the same political force competed in the run-off. The outcome of the elections, won by incumbent Deputy St. Petersburg Mayor Vladimir Yakovlev, has demonstrated that Russians favor stable development for their country, he said.

Chernomyrdin said he spoke with the new St. Petersburg governor on the telephone Tuesday. He congratulated Yakovlev and wished him professional success.

## Russia: Names of Chechen Commission Heads Reported

*LD0406125796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1221 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazran, 4 Jun (Itar-Tass) — The federal and Chechen separatist delegations holding talks here have agreed to set up two working commissions — on military issues and exchanging detainees.

The first commission will be headed by Chechnya federal commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and separatist chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov, ITAR-TASS has learned from sources close to those taking part in the talks.

The second commission, on detainee exchanges, will be headed by Russian State Duma member Nikolay Bezborodov and "Republic of Ichkeria" interior minister Kazbek Makhashev (who is also taking part in the talks as a member of the Chechen delegation).

The commissions reflect the overall trend in place at the start of the Nazran talks, according to observers — preparations for practical implementation of the agreements reached on 27 May in Moscow. These concern an end to hostilities in Chechnya and the rapid release of persons forcibly detained according to the principle of "all for all."

## Russia: Maskhadov Denies Disagreement Over Agreements Signed in Moscow

*LD0406144596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks began today in Nazran, capital of Ingushetia, between the delegation of the federal authorities and representatives of the Chechen separatists. [video shows a vehicle with flashing lights and bearing a Chechen flag approaching; then various men are seen getting out of their cars and finally sitting around a long table]

[Correspondent L. Zhansuratova] The federal organs of power were represented by Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, chairman of the commission and minister of nationalities and federal relations; Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of the temporary combined forces of the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic; State Duma deputy [Sergey] Stepashin; Vladimir Strashko, first deputy of the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic; and others.

The Chechen side was represented by Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the armed forces; Interior Minister Kazbek Makhashev; presidential aide Akhmed Zakayev, ministers Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov and Movladi Udugov; field commander Shirvani Basayev; and others. [video shows meeting in progress].

The talks began with a discussion of several military questions — the most difficult, probably — including a variety of problems, a dialogue on which will be conducted basically by Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and Aslan Maskhadov. Group leaders Nikolay Bezborodov and Kazbek Makhashev have to resolve the question of prisoner exchanges and the freeing of people who are being held by force.

If the opinions of the sides, as expressed before the start of the negotiating process can be called optimistic, that optimism is rather restrained. [video cuts to show A. Maskhadov, identified by caption as head of the main staff of the Chechen formations, being interviewed]

[Begin recording] [Interviewer] How would you describe press comments on your disagreements with Yandarbiyev over the agreements signed in Moscow?

[Maskhadov] Well, it is a fabrication. We have no disagreements. It is a deception. We have no disagreements. I am fully and implicitly doing what the president [Yandarbiyev] says.

[Interviewer] Thank you. [end recording]

## Russia: Negotiators Agree on Agenda for Chechen Peace Talks

*LD0406160896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, June 4 (Interfax) — The delegations of the federal authorities and the Chechen separatists in Nazran, the capital of the Russian internal republic of Ingushetia, agreed Tuesday on the agenda for their further meetings.

Russian Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, chief federal negotiator, told journalists that the agenda will include the mechanism of implementing the cease-fire that started at midnight on May 31, the implementation of the understanding on the release of all captives within two weeks and the venue, time and arrangement for the next meeting of the negotiators.

The two sides also discussed the procedural issues in implementing the cease-fire.

Mikhaylov said that, despite differences, the two sides agree on numerous points.

"We will do our best to end the war," said the Chechen separatist chief of military operations, Aslan Maskhadov.

The two sides will continue talks at the levels of negotiating teams and working groups at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Mikhaylov said that he and Maskhadov will head working groups on military issues. The federal working group on the release of captives is headed by General Nikolay Bezborodov and the separatist group, by Kazbek Makhashev, interior minister in the separatist government.

Mikhaylov and Maskhadov will take turns in chairing the talks.

Mikhaylov praised the constructive mediatory role played by the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe].

Both Mikhaylov and Maskhadov thanked the Ingush leaders for having organized the meeting.

The two sides agreed that no negotiator will make statements or comment on the talks until their next round ends.

### Russia: Yandarbiyev Says Russian Troops' Withdrawal Main Goal

*AU0506111296 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 30 May 96 p 1*

["Topical" interview with Said-Khasan Abumuslimov, deputy of the Chechen parliament and head of the Commission for Issues of External Policy, and with Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev by Mariya Bazelyuk by telephone on 27 and 28 May 1996 in Moscow: "We Look Upon the Talks as a Way To Achieve Chechnya's Full Independence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A delegation of the Chechen Republic Ichkeria headed by President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev arrived in Moscow on 27 May for talks with Boris Yeltsin. On the same day, an agreement was signed at the highest level between the Chechen Republic Ichkeria and the Russian Federation envisaging a cease-fire as of 1 June, the exchange of prisoners of war within a fortnight, and the continuation of the negotiating process to achieve a "peaceful settlement to the conflict." According to the news agencies, the commission continued work in a "secret summer house on the outskirts of Moscow," and on the morning of 28 May, Boris Yeltsin, without telling the Chechen delegation, made his populist trip to Chechen territory to improve his election rating. The aircraft landed at the "Severnyy" [Northern] Airport, where the 205th Motorized Infantry Brigade is deployed and where Doku Zavgayev, head of the pro-Russian puppet government, is in hiding. Having spent not more than one hour there, Yeltsin returned to Moscow without experiencing any pangs of conscience for his uncivilized and mean deed. Moscow's philosophy was petty: So long as Yandarbiyev is in Moscow, there is no risk of any attempts on Yeltsin's life. Well, the Chechens will stay as hostages, and world public opinion will swallow this pill as well. Yet, nobody guaranteed the Chechen delegation that all of its members would return home alive (as is stipulated by international law), because Russia never fulfilled its obligations.**

**Meanwhile, I contacted the Chechen delegation in Moscow by telephone. Said-Khasan Abumuslimov, deputy of the Chechen parliament and head of the Commission for Issues of External Policy, answered the phone. After mutual greetings and my questions about the fate of mutual acquaintances, I asked Said-Khasan what, in his opinion, was the most important issue in the accord signed with Yeltsin.**

[Abumuslimov] The accord was reached on the cease-fire starting on 1 June, but the negotiating process will continue, because the most important problems have not yet been settled. The accord envisages settlement of all differences between Chechnya and Russia without the use of force. I believe that this is the most important accord, provided Moscow adheres to it.

[Bazelyuk] We certainly admire your courage and the fact that you arrived in the den of the enemy, who cannot be trusted. Tell me frankly, are you sure that you will return to Chechnya "without adventures"?

[Abumuslimov] With the help of the Most High....

[Bazelyuk] (The above conversation took place on 27 May in the evening, and next morning, it transpired that my doubts about Moscow's "honesty" had not been groundless).

S.-Kh. Abumuslimov passed on the receiver to the Chechen President. Zelimkhan Yandarbyev was calm and determined as ever. We spoke about the situation in Chechnya and about talks in Moscow and what was to be expected from them:

Pan [Mr.] Zelimkhan, the accord that has been signed does not say anything about the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechen territory. You did not raise this question during your meeting with Yeltsin?

[Yandarbiyev] This is the main issue that we raised at the negotiations, but the Russian side advances conditions, which we find unacceptable. I think that Moscow must give them up. It is clear that, unless the Russian troops are withdrawn from Chechnya, we will not fulfill the accord either. In short, that is why we have come to Moscow.

[Bazelyuk] Some people think that once the Chechens came to Moscow, they would be ready to sign a peace agreement on any terms.

[Yandarbiyev] If there are people who believe such nonsense, that is a problem of their mentality.... We can agree to certain compromises, but we will never yield on our most sacred issue — Chechen independence. I hope that Yeltsin realizes this. We look upon any talks with Russia as a way to achieve full Chechen independence.

[Bazelyuk] Rumors are being spread about some alleged confrontation between Yandarbiyev and field commanders, in particular, General Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Chechen Republic Ichkeria.

[Yandarbiyev] It is wishful thinking on the part of authors of such allegations. We work in full harmony, for how can there be any confrontation between people who are united by a common goal and common duty?

[Bazelyuk] Next day, having learned about Yeltsin's trip, I called Z. Yandarbiyev again:

Was Yeltsin's trip to Chechnya discussed during your meeting with him. How do you assess it?

[Yandarbiyev] Yeltsin's trip was not brought up during the talks — we only learned about it today. I believe that this is a very serious flop in the Russian policy and can only express my sympathy on the occasion. World public opinion will understand and assess properly this act resorted to during the talks.

[Bazelyuk] Perhaps, having signed the accord with Chechnya, Yeltsin realized that he thereby recognized Chechnya as an independent state and the legitimacy of its government, so he decided to show "who is the boss": He went to Chechnya without coordinating his trip with the Chechen president?

[Yandarbiyev] We do not care what considerations Yeltsin was guided by. At any rate, they do not contribute to his state's prestige. We promote our cause, which is honest and noble, and truth is on our side.

[Bazelyuk] Didn't your delegation find itself in the situation of hostages?

[Yandarbiyev] We continue working in the commission to settle the conflict, and no external factors can change our position in the negotiations.

## Russia: Zavgayev Says Chechen Peace Talks Need His Regime's Consent

*LD0506090696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0849 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 5 (Interfax) — Head of the Chechen Republic Doku Zavgayev told Interfax Wednesday there would have been no talks with separatists without consent of the Moscow-backed Chechen leadership.

"There would have been no talks even in the Kremlin without our consent. The whole negotiations process and all the documents to be signed were coordinated with us," said Zavgayev.

He stressed the Nazran talks will keep within coordinated limits. "They will discuss only voluntary disarmament, termination of terrorist activities and liberation of detained persons. There is nothing more to discuss with them (the gunmen)," he said. Two deputies of the Chechen prime minister are participating in the Nazran talks.

Zavgayev said he keeps a constant contact with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who heads the commission for Chechen settlement. "We regularly consider economic restorations and peace in Chechnya, as well as issues directly related to the negotiations," said the Chechen head.

Commenting on separatists' demand to postpone elections in Chechnya proposed at the Nazran talks, he stressed "this is not in their competence."

"These people (the separatists) represent their own interests. What is more, they are conflicting with the law," stressed Zavgayev. "A decision to the effect has been taken, and none has the right to cancel it."

Some 70 out of the 93 candidates to the Chechen parliament have been registered. Registration will end on June 10. Under the law, each candidate shall collect no less than 500 signatures in their support. Each has collected 2,000-3,000 signatures. "These are 200,000 potential voters out of the 460,000 people who enjoy the right to vote in Chechnya," said Zavgayev.

He bluntly refuted rumors regarding his possible resignation. "I was not nominated. I was elected by the people, and only the people can dismiss me," said Zavgayev.

In his words, Moscow and Groznyy leaders have no differences. "We have absolute support and understanding of President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian government."

### Russia: Chechen Leaders Explain Objections to Separatist Government

*LD0406211396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[Video report from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first day of talks in Nazran ended at 1800. ITAR-TASS reports that the talks will continue in two commissions — for military issues and for prisoner exchange — on 5 June.

Doku Zavgayev, the leader of Chechnya, told journalists in Moscow on 4 June that the talks in Nazran are taking place with the consent of his government.

[Begin recording] [Zavgayev] The talks only started with our consent. Before starting talks with them, the issue was agreed with us, with me personally. As far as the meeting in Nazran today is concerned, our representative is also attending them.

[Correspondent Korovyakovskiy] The top individuals in the Chechen leadership preferred to spend today in Moscow where this news conference took place. Neither Doku Zavgayev, nor Nikolay Koshman, chairman of the Chechen government, experienced a desire to meet their opponents, even at the negotiating table. A snippet of a speech by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev made at a rally in Shali literally a few hours after the Chechen opposition leader returned from Moscow was cited as the reason.

[Zavgayev] The first decree that I signed when I took up the post was: Betrayers of the people must be shot. Close relatives must also be shot. This will show you the kind of morals that this patriot has.

[Korovyakovskiy] Nonetheless, there is no alternative to talks, Doku Zavgayev and Nikolay Koshman state. But both politicians do not place their hopes so much in the peace agreement that will possibly be signed as in the peaceful work that is currently in full swing in Chechnya. In particular, at the same time as the elections for the president of Russia, elections to the national assembly are being held, and a really good turnout is expected. The law does not prevent even former armed fighters who have laid down their arms from standing as candidates. Possibly this offers the most realistic prospect for Chechnya's transition from confrontation to coalition. [end recording]

### Russia: Chechen Separatists Make Settlement Proposals

*LD0506104496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1015 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, June 5 (Interfax) — A protocol with settlement proposals was circulated by the Chechen opposition delegation to the Nazran talks in the lobby today.

The proposals run as follows:

— to cease fire, terminate hostilities and stop combat use of any armaments, including rocket launchers, artillery guns and the like;

— to lift the blockade of all Chechen populated areas and close down federal check points before June 7. Russian troops shall be concentrated in coordinated regions by June 10 and later withdrawn from Chechen territory;

— to agree on the time for federal troops' withdrawal by June 15;

— to hold free democratic elections to all Chechen power institutions after peaceful settlement;

— to give all Russian citizens in Chechnya the opportunity to participate in the Russian presidential elections;

— to solve problems in relations between the Russian Federation and Chechnya on the basis of the free expression of will of the Chechen people.

The delegation proposed that working groups for military issues and exchange of detained persons should be made responsible for implementing this protocol.

Vice-president of the separatists Said-Hasan Abumuslimov told Interfax Wednesday the Chechen delegation tends to believe that the talks on Chechen settlement "are only an element of Boris Yeltsin's election campaign for the Russian side."

He thinks the elections to the Chechen parliament on June 16 will sharply escalate tension in the republic. "In this case the situation will run out of our control," said the leader of the separatist delegation.

Abumuslimov said the OSCE's opinion on the issue coincides with that of the armed opposition's leaders. He noted that head of the OSCE mission in Chechnya Tim Guldimann also thinks Chechnya is lacking the conditions for democratic elections.

Abumuslimov said elections in Chechnya are possible only after the withdrawal of federal troops.

### Russia: Over 60 Chinese Detained for Illegally Entering Russia

*LD0506053496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[By Leonid Vinogradov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK June 5 (Itar-Tass) — Over 60 Chinese residents, mostly poachers who illegally crossed the border into the Russian territory, were detained in the first five months of the year by border guards of the Pacific region, the press service of the Pacific border district told TASS on Wednesday [5 June].

The latest detentions on May 29 and June 3 included four Chinese poachers who fished in the Russian part of the Ussuri river.

The border district press centre said Russian authorities had made a statement to the Chinese side over the violations.

### Russia: Yakovlev, Sobchak Comment on St. Petersburg Election Results

*MM0406132896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jun 96 pp 1-2*

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Man of Action Outsmarts Man of Words in St. Petersburg. Initial Returns Show Vladimir Yakovlev Beating Anatoliy Sobchak in Gubernatorial Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Vladimir Yakovlev was 40 minutes late for his first press conference in his new capacity, explaining that he had been summoned for a phone call with President Yeltsin, but that the call had been postponed....

"The time has come for practical democrats...." Those were the words, according to IZVESTIYA's own correspondents V. Kostyukovskiy and S. Krayukhin, with which the new governor began his discussion with the journalists. He said that he would not be dividing the city into "Whites and Reds" and called on citizens to unite. V. Yakovlev announced that the former city government had resigned, but he intended to talk to each member about possible cooperation.

"Some people talked of the 'hand of Moscow' during the election campaign," Vladimir Anatolyevich said. "If there was a 'hand,' it was the hand of cooperation. I have the support of Mayor Luzhkov of Moscow, and we already have plans for joint projects — the construction and modernization of five-story apartment blocks, the building of a highway between the two capitals...."

Vladimir Yakovlev paid tribute to his predecessor and made a high assessment of his work during the sudden change in the country's regime and the formation of Russian democracy. He stressed that he had learned a lot from Anatoliy Sobchak as a great and prestigious politician.

Recalling criticism of him in the newspapers and on TV, the new governor said that he would not allow any reprisals to be taken against journalists, but amendments would be made to the activity of certain editorial offices and TV channels. He reaffirmed that he intends to bring to account those who produced the film on St. Petersburg's fifth channel which besmirched his honor and dignity.

Commenting at an INTERFAX correspondent's request on Yegor Gaydar's recent statement that a defeat for Anatoliy Sobchak in the election would be a defeat for democracy not only in St. Petersburg but in Russia, Vladimir Yakovlev voiced regret that "such slogans are spouted by such respected people." "In no way will democracy in St. Petersburg and Russia suffer following my election," he said.

Answering a question from journalists about the coming presidential election, Vladimir Yakovlev said that "today there is no alternative to Boris Yeltsin, and people whom I respect highly, such as Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, should realize that and take it on board."

Yakovlev hinted to journalists that during his election campaign he had had support from Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

"I think the main reason why I lost," Anatoliy Sobchak said, "was the failure to turn out on the part of a large number of voters who could have voted for me. My opponent won more votes in working areas and areas inhabited by the military. I have heard that members of the future coalition government are saying nice things about me. At the same time, even if I am offered a role in that government, I could not take it up on grounds of principle. As for my plans, after having a rest from election concerns, I intend to support President Yeltsin's election campaign. I intend to work for the St. Petersburg 'Russia Is Our Home' organization and for a number of other organizations to rally democratic forces. I am not ruling out the idea of taking part in the Leningrad Oblast gubernatorial elections."

The Kremlin is thus far showing restraint in its reaction to Vladimir Yakovlev's victory and Anatoliy Sobchak's defeat. "I personally am angry about Anatoliy Aleksandrovich's defeat," Sergey Shapovalov, deputy chief of the president's Administration for Work With the Territories, told IZVESTIYA in an interview. "I have known him a long time and I believe him to be a serious, skillful politician who has done a great deal for his city. But in political terms Vladimir Yakovlev's victory does not particularly worry me. Ultimately he is not a communist, he has a democratic outlook. But in general, I think it was a strategic mistake to hold the St. Petersburg gubernatorial elections before the presidential election."

### Russia: St. Petersburg Election Result Seen as 'Third Force' Victory

*MM0406151696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 2*

[Report by Stepan Kiselev: "'Third Force' Subjugates St. Petersburg"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Sobchak loved to draw the press' attention to the fact that only two of the rebellious guard of the [Soviet-era] Interregional Deputies Group were left in big-time politics — himself and the Russian president. Last Sunday Boris Yeltsin was left on his own — in the second round of voting Sobchak lost the St. Petersburg gubernatorial election to his former deputy Vladimir Yakovlev.

Thus, the governor has been chosen, but the electoral marathon is not yet over — in two weeks' time the people of St. Petersburg will once again be going to the polls, this time to elect a new Russian president. Certain politicians have already said that the St. Petersburg election was a rehearsal for the presidential election. The circumstances in which those assessments were made are clear: "A victory for Sobchak is the same as a victory for Yeltsin" — that is all very well for advertising posters, but bad for an understanding of the nature of the situation. And the nature of the situation is that St. Petersburg has exposed the realities against which election campaigns have to be corrected. And only in this context should election headquarters analysts draw attention to a number of important facts that raise St. Petersburg above oblast level.

First, the winner in St. Petersburg was not Vladimir Yakovlev but an "anti-Sobchak coalition" headed by Vladimir Yakovlev. That point is of fundamental importance if you bear in mind that in the St. Petersburg election campaign a coalition of four candidates (Artemyev, Belyayev, Shcherbakov, and Yakovlev) played the role of the "third force" which will in no way be present in the presidential election. Moreover, the "St. Petersburg-style third force" led its leader to victory and in the very near future we will be able to observe the formation of the first coalition government in post-Soviet Russia. IZVESTIYA's correspondent has learned that, under a preliminary coalition agreement, the "Center" regional party (St. Petersburg's "Yabloko") will head up six committees in the new St. Petersburg administration, two of which — the Budget and Finance Committee and the Property Administration Committee — will largely determine St. Petersburg's life.

Second, Anatoliy Sobchak's defeat was largely predetermined by his mistaken campaign tactics, which were entirely based on sociologists' predictions. Casting their spell over the opinion polls, the sociologists had geared the mayor to a second-round clash with Yuriy Boldyrev. The advertising and counterpropaganda campaign was arranged on this basis. And when Yakovlev made it into the second round, it came totally out of the blue for the Sobchak team. But they were no longer able to change their game plan. Moreover, outsiders got the impression that the mayor's team played a bad joke on him by convincing him that he would inevitably beat this "boring economic manager." In the TV debate held a day before the election Anatoliy Sobchak had clearly underestimated his rival. A well-known polemicist but clearly relying solely on his improvisation skills, he clearly lost out, in the view of experts, to the specific Vladimir Yakovlev, who had been well-prepared for the meeting by expert producers.

And, finally, the third fact which should be borne in mind in the context of the presidential election. It was not Anatoliy Sobchak who lost in St. Petersburg, but the camp of radical democrats to which he belongs. In that sense his defeat is a milestone. It becomes all the more obvious if you bear in mind that Anatoliy Sobchak was actively supported by a number of well-known liberals. Conversely, Vladimir Yakovlev's victory is a sign of the new political realities, whereby coalition support is more valuable than individual talents, and an economic grounding is valued more than European charm. So, when faced with a choice between "democrats or Communists," voters vote for the "third force" — businesslike people.... The foremen with their caps are taking the rostrum.

As far as St. Petersburg as such is concerned, I will make a rash prediction. The unbridled ferocity with which the election campaign was conducted allows us to assume that a number of trials will begin in the northern capital in the very near future.

## Economic Issues

### Russia: Joint US-Russian Study Examines Power Industry

*MK0506105396 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Jun 96 p 3*

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY own information: "Electric Power Industry Ought To Rely on Itself"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Government experts have submitted an investment project for Russia compiled on the basis of a joint study of alternatives for the development of the electric power industry that was conducted under an agreement between the Russian premier and the President of the United States. The study estimates investment requirements for the Russian electric power industry and the potential power supply during a 15-year period. The greatest attention, in the opinion of the experts, should be paid to a more efficient use of electric power. Thanks to the introduction of new technologies the annual consumption of electricity can be cut by 29 billion kWh by the year 2000, and by 112 billion kWh by the year 2010. The total investment required, considering all the objectives that have been set, is between $32 and $81 billion. The electric power industry is supposed to meet between 65 per cent and 70 percent of the demand from its own resources, for which purpose it should press for the establishment of tariffs at a level that could pay production expenses and capital outlays.

## Russia: TV Plant Hopes for Communist Victory

*964E1332A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian*
*5 May 96 p 3*

[Article by Natalya Krotova, under rubric "Patriotism: The 'Ruby' Is Covered with Dust: A Very Large Russian TV Plant Hopes That Mr. Zyuganov Will Rid It of Its Foreign Investors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rubin [Ruby] TV plant in Moscow, which at one time was famous throughout the country, is standing idle. Its shops have been locked up, and the equipment is covered with a layer of dust. At one time as many as 800,000 "blue screens" were assembled here each year. Currently the plant manages, with difficulty, to produce only 5000. This year the plant has been standing idle more and more frequently. Because of the lack of working capital, the enterprise was inactive for half of April and then, after reviving for a week, closed again. This time it will be closed until 22 May.

Television sets with the Rubin trademark have currently become practically museum pieces. They were crowded out by the more reliable and more up-to-date imported television sets. The TV sets that are sold frequently in the stores are Gold Star and Samsung sets with "red metallurgical" assembly. Household appliances are assembled on small production lines that were purchased by domestic metallurgical plants with money derived from the export of the basic output.

It cannot be said that the diversification of the activity of major exporters is contributing to the flourishing of the Russian television industry. As is generally known, when a shoemaker attempts to bake pies, that does not lead to anything good. However, one wonders why, nevertheless, the "piemaker" does not bake the "pies" himself. It turns out that the Rubin administration is awaiting governmental subsidies and the future development of the domestic producers of radio electronic elements for assembling TV sets.

People at the plant take a negative attitude to the idea of forming cooperatives with foreign electronics producers. Aleksandr Petrov, deputy general director of Rubin, gave as an example the Voronezh picture-tube plant, which was purchased by the Philips company. In his opinion, Philips is causing harm to Russia by leaving in Voronezh an ecologically unfavorable production entity and by eliminating 2500 jobs. Obviously, "increased patriotism" has become the reason for Rubin's rejection of many proposals to create an SP [joint venture] with the owners of the best-known "television" corporations.

Incidentally, when, in a conversation with Aleksandr Petrov, a SEGODNYA correspondent quoted a Russian manager as saying "The cleanest air is over closed factories," Mr. Petrov said that is how everything is going. Thus, the situation at Rubin recalls the recent history with the Bolshevichka garment factory, the leadership of which feels that it is better to make no garments than to sew suits out of the unpatriotic Karden.

As was the situation at Bolshevichka, a serious struggle has begun for the shares of the Rubin that is approaching bankruptcy. The TV plant has major shareholders. Aleksandr Petrov assumes that Moskovskaya Investitsionnaya Kompaniya [Moscow Investment Company—MIK] has acquired a major block of enterprise shares (approximately 26 percent) exclusively for resale. The plant board of directors is opposing the foreign shareholders. According to unofficial information, apart from the 7 percent of shares that are listed on the Rubin balance sheet, the plant leadership indirectly controls an additional 28 percent that were purchased by the Piktol and Soyuzenergiya companies. Considering the fact that the plant has been standing idle almost all the time, it is not completely understandable what funds the board of directors is using to finance the purchase of the shares of the TV enterprise.

Incidentally, a meeting of the enterprise's shareholders has been scheduled for 22 June, after the presidential election. All things considered, the plant administration hopes that after 16 June Rubin will no longer be threatened by any foreign investors.

## International Affairs

### Ukraine: Kiev Wants No Nuclear Warheads in New NATO Member States

*LD0406121696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 4 (Interfax-Ukraine) — NATO could reject the possibility of putting nuclear warheads in new member countries when this is not strategically necessary, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yuriy Sergeyev said Tuesday.

A firm correspondence to NATO standards, including those which place nuclear weapons in new member-countries, "could push the other side toward creating and strengthening its own military bloc," he said.

In this case, "the world may return to the times of the Cold War," he said.

This is just one of the Ukrainian proposals which calls "for an evolutionary approach to the issue of NATO's expansion, with the maximum amount of convergence between the alliance's ideas and the ideas of global security," he said.

Ukraine's other proposal, which calls for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe, is motivated by its own security concerns, he said.

"But we are not basing it on the principle that security for all should be achieved through security for us," he said.

### Ukraine: Warning on NATO Expansion, Nuclear Deployment

*LD0406154896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 4 (Itar-Tass) - NATO's eastward expansion and deployment of nuclear weapons on the soil of new members may bring about an antagonistic, bipolar security system, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Sergeyev said.

"Ukraine would not like to become a buffer state over which nuclear strikes would be exchanged, and to find itself in a zone of political and nuclear tests," Sergeyev said.

He said NATO's eastward enlargement "will lead to expansion, strengthening of a NATO-opposing side — the formation of a new pact which is not inferior to the North Atlantic one in size and strategic goals."

With this in mind, Ukraine advocates an evolutional expansion of NATO with a maximum account for the global security concept proposed by Russia, Sergeyev said.

Ignoring Russia's concern will deepen rather than contain confrontation, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry warns.

Ukraine "will further continue to consistently oppose any attempts of NATO to deploy nuclear weapons near its borders," Sergeyev said.

### Ukraine: Udovenko Urges Nuclear-Free Zone in Eastern, Central Europe

*LD0406145396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BERLIN, June 4 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine favors the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central and Eastern Europe in order to build confidence and improve stability in the region, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said in a report he presented to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) in Berlin Tuesday.

Udovenko said that Ukraine is worried by statements made by leaders of neighboring nations and NATO officials on the possibility of deploying nuclear weapons on their soil as the alliance expands.

"Ukraine, which understood its responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the region, made a historic decision to get rid of nuclear weapons. The last trainload of strategic nuclear warheads left the country three days ago," he said. Now, Udovenko believes, Kiev has a right to expect its partners to show the same kind of consideration for its security.

"NATO proved to be the sole viable factor of peace and stability in post-war Europe. Its democratic nature and efficient structure led nearly all countries of the region to the conclusion that they should join the alliance," Udovenko said.

The potential of the NACC and the Partnership for Peace program are far from exhausted and could be regarded as "a parallel process of NATO expansion," he believes.

"We in Ukraine are satisfied with the development of close relations with NATO but want a special partnership," Udovenko said.

Ukraine's decision to stay away from blocs, he continued, is not inconsistent with its active participation in the formation of a new security structure for the European-Atlantic region, and "future Ukrainian membership in such a security system is natural." Udovenko made it clear that Ukraine might give up its status of a country which stays out of such blocs.

The NACC includes NATO member nations, former Warsaw pact member nations and newly independent states that emerged from the former USSR. Ukraine joined the NACC when it was formed in 1991 and joined the Partnership for Peace program in 1993.

## Ukraine: Shmarov, Perry Comment on 'Peace Shield-96' Exercises

*WS0506084896 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0127 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[Report by Yuriy Borutskiy and Olha Shostak]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov, June 4. The Peace Shield-96 military exercises started in the Yavoriv shooting range (Lvov oblast) on Monday attended by 1,300 servicemen from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, the United States, and Ukraine.

The Yavoriv shooting range is the Europe largest, occupying 39,000 hectares of land.

The exercises, held within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program, were initiated by Ukraine and the United States and are financed by the latter according to a plan fixed by Ukrainian-U.S. bilateral military agreements. In addition to the defense ministers of the participating countries, also present are highest military officials from Georgia and Belarus.

"Today in this shooting range, we write a new history of the peaceful future of Europe and the entire world," said U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry. "Because providing peaceful coexistence of states is presently the most important issue for our peoples."

Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov said such multinational exercises are taking place in Ukraine for the first time, a fact which he said reflects Ukraine's political position and that of all the participating countries.

According to Shmarov, the exercises are primarily aimed at practicing peace-keeping operations, including interaction of multinational units, convoy of humanitarian cargoes, searching and rescuing.

Shmarov reported that the exercises, to last for seven days, will use 45 infantry's armored vehicles and 100 trucks, cars and helicopters. Heavy military hardware will not be used. A majority of the attending countries take part in peace-keeping operations carried out throughout the world. The scenario of the event was made close to the hostilities that are taking place in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

Says Perry: "My generation lived during the period of cold war. Five years ago, we could hardly even think that an exercise would be carried out in which the former enemies would take part. NATO has ceased to be a threat for any country of the former Soviet Union. It promotes security and stabilization in Europe."

## Ukraine: U.S. Aid for Nuclear Disarmament Detailed

*WS0506082896 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0127 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[Report by Halia Pavliva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 4. United States Secretary of Defense William Perry and Ukraine's Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov signed two existing CTR (Cooperative Threat Reduction or Nunn-Lugar program) agreements in Ukrainian city of Pervomaysk on Tuesday.

With these additions, there is now over $396 million in CTR assistance allocated to Ukraine. Of this total, almost $300 million is already under contract.

Up to $29.7 million will be added to the Strategic Nuclear Arms Elimination Agreement. The funds will be added to the implementing agreement for silo elimination and site restoration work, as well as related projects like missile dismantlement.

The other amendment will add up to $13.4 million to the implementing agreement for nuclear infrastructure elimination, including the planned destruction of the warhead storage facility in Pervomaysk.

The amendments signed on Tuesday add funds to the $215 million CTR program implementing agreement signed by the U.S. Department of Defense and Ukraine's Defense Ministry on December 5, 1993 and amended on March 21, 1994, April 1, 1995 and June 27, 1995.

"This is a program with benefits to United States and Ukraine. Indeed it has benefits all over the world. By this program, by the actions we are taking here, we are ensuring that our children and our grandchildren will live in peace," Perry said Tuesday in Pervomaysk.

Shmarov referred to Tuesday's document signing as a "really historical event, which is symbol of consistent policies on disarming."

CTR program is designed to make Ukraine a state free of nuclear weapons. Under the program former Soviet state Kazakhstan got non-nuclear status last year and Belarus is scheduled to do it later this year.

On May 31, Ukraine transported its last nuclear weapon to Russia for dismantling. "Ukraine fulfilled its obligations before international community. I would like to believe that nuclear weapons would never be in Ukraine anymore," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in Pervomaysk Tuesday.

Over $1.5 billion has been allocated by the U.S. Congress for CTR since fiscal year 1992. Over $1 billion of that has already been contracted.

### Ukraine: Official Says G-7 Chernobyl Demands 'Unacceptable'

*WS0506081596 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0750 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 4 June — As an INFOBANK correspondent was informed by Victor Tatarynov, head of the Environment and Nuclear Safety Ministry's International Department, Ukraine would like to obtain a concrete schedule of funding for Chernobyl station closure at the negotiations with G-7 experts due to begin June 5 in Kiev. According to Victor Tatarynov, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is to address all G-7 leaders warning them that Ukraine would be forced to postpone the closure of Chernobyl station in case the closure funding schedule is put off.

Western powers insist on Chernobyl power station closure by the year 2000. But, as Victor Tatarynov remarks, the signing of agreements on credits and grants to be used for Chernobyl closure is being delayed because of some G-7 demands which are unacceptable for Ukraine at the moment. One of the demands is that Ukraine is to sign the Vienna convention on nuclear responsibility. According to this convention, the responsibility for accidents at nuclear stations is to be borne by the company which operates the nuclear facility and not by the company which supplied the equipment for this nuclear facility. According to Victor Tatarynov, Ukraine is not ready to sign the convention both because of financial considerations and opposition in the Ukrainian parliament.

The other Western demand Ukraine does not agree with is the inclusion into the list of projects and works to be financed by Western states of those projects that had been started before the talks between Ukraine and the G-7 got under way.

### Ukraine: New Railroad Connects Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Poland

*WS0506082596 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0750 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 4 June — According to reports by an UKRINFORM correspondent, four countries have been connected by a new international railroad route Konstanza-Bucharest (Romania) - Dyakovo-Chop (Ukraine) - Koshice (Slovakia) - Krakow (Poland).

On Sunday, June 2, the first train crossed the Romanian-Ukrainian borderline near a Transcarpathian village of Dyakovo where a meeting was held. Authorities of the Transcarpathian region, railroaders, customs officials, border guards, as well as Ukraine's Ambassador to Romania Oleksandr Chalyy participated in the meeting. According to the speakers, the new route will contribute to furthering and widening international contacts, foreign economic ties of the bordering regions, tourist exchange, direct communication of citizens of the neighboring countries. It is planned to open two more railroad transition points on the Ukrainian-Romanian border this year.

## National Affairs

### Ukraine: Deputies Collect Signatures To Oust Parliament Speaker

*LD0406133096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 4 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian lawmakers have collected 170 signatures among themselves to put an item calling for the resignation of parliament speaker Oleksandr Moroz on the agenda of the parliament session.

The deputies calling for the resignation of the leader of Ukrainian socialists move that rotation of the parliament leadership be considered after the Republic's new constitution is approved on first reading.

The parliament began to consider the new constitution today. According to a resolution adopted earlier, the parliament must pass the new constitution in first reading later today.

In the corridors of the parliament, lawmakers are already discussing candidates for the post of the parliament chairman. Two names that crop up most frequently are ex-President Leonid Kravchuk and ex-Premier Yevheniy Marchuk.

### Ukraine: Parliament Rejects Motion To Remove Moroz as Speaker

*LD0506104096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0950 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A motion for the dismissal of Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz was rejected by parliament on 5 June. A draft resolution to put the motion on the agenda had been introduced by 170 deputies of the Ukrainian People's Movement [Rukh], Statehood, Reforms, Social Market Choice, and other center-right factions and groups, as well as some of the independent deputies. But only 169 voted in favor; 168 voted against and 12 of the 371 deputies present abstained.

Speaking in support of the motion, deputy Oleksandr Lavrynovych of the Rukh faction said: "Oleksandr Moroz is provoking confrontation between power structures." He added that Moroz could not chair the parliament, being also the leader of the Socialist Party.

Communist faction leader Petro Symonenko argued that the call for Moroz's resignation was "a scheme drafted in the Ukrainian president's office." Independent deputy Yevhen Smirnov accused right-wing factions of carrying out a "political contract to remove Oleksandr Moroz and destroy the parliament from within."

### Ukraine: Dismissal May 'Contribute' to Marchuk's Political Career

*AU0406120196 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 30 May 96 p 1*

[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA editorial: "Yevhen Marchuk Does Not Accept the Reasons for His Dismissal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's edict of 27 May 1996 dismissing Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk from his post "due to the need for him to exercise his functions and powers as Ukraine's people's deputy on a permanent basis" was perhaps entirely unexpected only to those common citizens whose interest in political matters is, at best, episodic. Analysts had been predicting this course of events for quite some time. As a matter of fact, such an outcome had not only been predetermined by the development trend in the socioeconomic situation, but also by the presidential team's tactics for action. In the worst traditions of Ukraine's past and contemporary history, in critical situations blame is generally placed on those who are near at hand. However paradoxical this may sound, Marchuk was, in fact, a little man who could always be used as a scapegoat. The Constitutional Agreement did not give him powers enabling him to form a government. He had rather meager powers for being truly responsible for the actual state of affairs. The facts are too telling. The government had been nominated by the president. L. Kuchma did not always heed the prime minister's opinion on that. It is not accidental that in one of his recent interviews, Yevhen Marchuk stated that had he had any powers to form the government, he would have left no more than one-third of the Cabinet of Ministers' present composition.

Many columnists, political scientists, and journalists are convinced that Yevhen Marchuk's dismissal was an attempt to relieve social discontent on the eve of the constitutional referendum. This was also corroborated by the statement issued by the Presidential Administration's Press Service, which read that the process of structural reforms had hardly started at all due to the Cabinet of Ministers' poor performance. As a consequence there is a growing crisis in payments and long delays in paying wages, pensions, scholarships, allowances, and subsidies. "The budgetary discipline does not stand up to criticism," the press service states, "and the government fails to forecast the development of economic processes, but rather follows in their wake, making decisions in most cases on the basis of their results. Virtually no work is being done to preempt economic and social problems. The Cabinet's organizational structure has remained virtually unchanged, totally unsuited to implementing market reforms. There is almost no personal accountability for the implementation of decisions made and for any failures involving serious social consequences.

"These and many other negative developments and trends in the Cabinet's activity became possible because Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk failed to ensure efficient and stable government performance as required by the situation. Instead of attending to the day-to-day work and organize its activities, he lately concentrated on creating his own political image," reads the statement.

Well, the statement has interpreted the reasons that, frankly speaking, do not quite coincide with those expounded in the edict. Because after that, it would be logical to issue more than 50 additional edicts dismissing those people's deputies who work in executive structures in violation of the law that forbids people's deputies to occupy any other posts during their fulfillment of deputy functions.

In view of the complex nature of the present situation, Yevhen Marchuk has refrained form public statements or news conferences.

In the Supreme Council's lobby, surrounded by journalists, he said that he did not accept the reasons for his dismissal as expounded in the statement by the Presidential Press Service. "The president adopted a decision as he found appropriate," he pointed out. "This is his right. Of course, history will sort everything out. Time will show. The only thing to which I would like to draw your attention is the futility of shifting all the blame for the present state of the economy onto the prime minister.

It would be the easiest thing to have all the causes for everything that we, unfortunately, have personified by the prime minister. The truth and the causes are rooted much deeper.

"Unless the government acts in a concerted manner and unless it consolidates and assumes the enormous responsibility for the present situation, it will take Ukraine a long time to emerge from this destitution. I believe, however, that all of this will be overcome, and Ukraine will eventually attract the great interest of politicians and historians as a great power that has emerged from such a difficult situation."

The very near future will show who has won and who has lost. However, even now many columnists agree that Marchuk's resignation in the present situation will undoubtedly contribute to his further political career. The alignment of forces on the chessboard of Ukrainian politics will largely depend on how the ex-prime minister behaves in the deputies' audience. At any rate, he has a chance to form a broad coalition of centrist forces that may also be joined by the moderate left wing.

### Ukraine: Supreme Council Approves Draft Constitution in First Reading

*LD0406172196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian*
*1655 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev — On 4 June, the Supreme Council of Ukraine approved in the first reading the draft Ukrainian constitution prepared by the special ad hoc commission. As many as 258 deputies voted in favor and 106 against the draft and 19 abstained from voting. Altogether 392 people's deputies were registered in the session hall. A relevant resolution says that the ad hoc commission should analyze the proposals put forward by the people's deputies and then submit the draft constitution for the second reading on 19 June. [passage omitted]

## Economic Issues

### Ukraine: Lazarenko Meets Ministers, Specifies Budget Priorities

*WS0506082696 Kiev UKRINFORM in English*
*0750 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 4 June — As UKRINFORM learned from the press center of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, Ukraine's Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko held a meeting with heads of Ukrainian ministries and departments on June 4. Opening the meeting, Mr. Lazarenko said that from now on, relations between him and heads of Ukrainian ministries and departments will be based on "full support, full trust, and full responsibility." The Ukrainian prime minister earmarked priority issues that must be urgently resolved.

One of the most important issues, according to the Ukrainian prime minister, is payment of budgetary debts. He directed the Finance Ministry to prepare a schedule for payment of such debts. Mr. Lazarenko said that although a quick change cannot be expected, a tendency must be established. The prime minister also noted the importance of restructuring the Ukrainian industrial sector. Sectoral ministries and departments will be responsible for this. Mr. Lazarenko also said that strict control must be established over disbursement of budgetary funds. He criticized the Health Ministry for using budgetary funds for purposes other than those for which they were allocated. Mr. Lazarenko said that assistance and protection of domestic manufacturers is another issue of principal importance.

### Ukraine: Performance of Black Sea Gas Extraction Company Praised

*WS0306122496 Kiev K[illegible]VSKIYE VEDOMOSTI*
*in Russian 29 May 96*

[Report by Svitlana Korotych: "It Is Quite Realistic to 'Take' Crimean Oil and Gas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The state production enterprise "Chernomorneftegaz" was organized in Crimea in 1978 to perform a closed production cycle from prospecting to selling hydrocarbons in the region. Extraction is taking place at three gas condensate deposits in the Black Sea and one gas deposit in the Azov Sea. In addition, the enterprise ensures the construction of facilities needed for work at sea deposits. "Chernomorneftegaz" owns 24 ships, two floating rigs, a center of supplies for ensuring production, a center for drilling and ensuring work at sea, and an underground gas storage facility. The enterprise at present employs 3,500 people; the average wage amounts to 14.4 million karbovantsi. The enterprise has managed to increase the extraction of hydrocarbons during several recent years, and now "Chernomorneftegaz" satisfies almost half of the region's fuel demand.**

It is quite a realistic task to increase the extraction of oil and gas in Crimea. Crimea is the most promising region in this aspect. It is not without purpose that many major oil and gas companies of the world compete for the right to carry out prospecting work here. It has been calculated in "Chernomorneftegas" that by 2010 the extraction figures in the enterprise alone may increase by a factor of 10. However, according to a just remark made by "Chernomorneftegas" Director Mykola Ilnytskyy in an interview to KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, today it is easier to buy fuel from Russia than to extract it on one's own. As all the other enterprises in the gas branch, "Chernomorneftegas" is practically supplying gas to the region on credit. As of 1 May, the debt of the consumers in 1995-96 amounted to $52.7 million.

The enterprise was negatively affected by a break in the single technological process, which occurred due to the secession of the "Chernomorneftegasstroy" trust. The trust constructed stationary sea rigs and performed construction work at sea, which needed not only unique and very expensive equipment, but also specially equipped platforms. At present, part of the equipment that formerly was in "Chernomorneftegas" and "went" with the trust, has found itself abroad for some reason. It is virtually impossible to bring it back: "Chernomorneftegas" has already tried to do this by addressing the Ukrainian president, the Supreme Council, and the Cabinet of Ministers. All this has produced no result. As for work at sea, it should be continued. "Chernomorneftegas" continues working at one of the most promising deposits in the Black Sea — Shtormovoye. The deposit was inaugurated in 1993. The prospected reserve of gas amounts to 16.6 billion cubic meters, while that of gas condensate — 1.2 million tonnes. These reserves are quite sufficient to satisfy the region's fuel demand for a period of 10 years. The work at the deposit is in full swing.

## Belarus

### Belarus: Article Examines Belarus Position, Ukraine Parallel

*AU0406121196 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 May 96 p 4*

[Article by Natalya Filipchuk: "Never a Dull Moment..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarus never tires of astonishing Europe. The latest case of expelling "Solidarity" activists almost caused an international outrage.

The events developed in the following way. A "Solidarity" delegation, headed by its chairman Marian Krzaklewski, arrived from Poland at the invitation of the Belarusian Free Trade Unions. There was a preliminary accord on a meeting with workers of the Automated Lines plant. Local authorities, however, did not like the idea and did not authorize the undertaking. Well, it's up to them, decided the Free Trade Unions, and met with the guests during a lunch break at a neighboring school. The development of events that followed was almost like a scenario from the 1930's: Plainclothesmen came up to the "Solidarity" activists, forced their hands behind their backs, and pushed them into a black car. A few hours later, the Poles were shown the state border and were asked to leave Belarus within 24 hours, on the pretext that the Free Trade Unions had been outlawed in the state and thus had no right to organize rallies or meetings.

In reality, the ban does not apply to the Free Trade Unions (incidentally, the act of their registration has the current year's date on it), but to the Congress of Democratic Free Trade Unions. Are the Belarusian authorities confused when it comes to remembering names, or do they simply pretend to be confused? All of this, however, gave reasons to the Polish Foreign Ministry to issue a note of protest, and to the Ministry's press secretary Pawel Dobrowolski to accuse the Belarusian Government of violating the principles of international law and encroaching upon the freedom of activity of societies and associations.

The affair had very strong repercussions in Poland. What about Belarus? People in the West have begun to get used to the fact that the events that are taking place in that state are at variance with democratic norms. That is why some people are convinced that no forces at home will be able to persuade Belarusians to build an independent and democratic state. Sometimes one even thinks that Belarus was not ready morally for the sovereignty that had been imposed upon it in Belovezh Pushcha [where the decision on dissolving the Soviet Union was adopted]. However, what is presently going on in Belarus bears a strong resemblance to the events in Ukraine five years ago.

Oles Antymenko, official at the Minsk department of the Soros Foundation, believes that it is still too early to give Belarusian independence up for lost. Indeed, after signing the union agreement with Russia, Lukashenka's rating grew by 15 percent, but only among middle aged and older people. As regards young people, especially students, to whom the future belongs, they are coming out in favor of their state's complete independence and against President Lukashenka. A serious threat for Lukashenka is also the fact that economic reforms in the country are practically at a standstill. This year, 50 percent of respondents said that the standard of their living had considerably deteriorated. To pay the arrears to pensioners, Lukashenka asked entrepreneurs for a loan. It later became clear that the state would not return the "loan." Nobody knows where Lukashenka will look for money in fall, when the "gift" capital is over. Expecting assistance from Russia is a hopeless business. To put it differently, Belarus may yet surprise Europe more than once. Let us hope that the surprise will be a pleasant one.

### Belarus: Relations With Post-Election Russia Foreseen

*WS0406130096 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian 1 Jun 96 p 3*

[Article by Anatol Lemeshenok: "Belarusian Factor in the Russian Election Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The election race in Russia is acquiring a more dramatic character on a daily basis. The presidential election will be held in two weeks. The party of power should be paid its dues. Never before did the state's propaganda machine work so rhythmically and powerfully to support its leader. All the "independent" and dependent television channels and all the major print media have been put under strict control. The best "chefs" of the political cuisine, including sociologists, political experts, and regular smart schemers operating on the political arena have been called up. One has the impression that the election is a matter of life and death. One can imagine the awe and confusion if all the efforts suddenly fall flat....**

#### "Wrapped" Propaganda

Is it possible? Of course it is. Professional propaganda specialists know the real price of montaged video clips, of phrases skillfully torn out of context, and of high ratings. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, one of the participants in the presidential race, depicted those ratings as "perfume which one can smell but cannot drink." Here is a specific example: A group of Belarusian industrialists was in Yaroslavl when President Yeltsin paid a visit to that city. Sugar-coated reports about the unity of the president and the people were aired throughout the state. In reality, according to eye-witnesses, the city met the distinguished Kremlin guest with tension and even animosity. Thus, the realities of current life in Russia, mildly speaking, do not necessarily coincide with what people see in the propaganda wrapping.

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka still gives headaches to the media's propagandists and agitators. When the well-known agreement on the establishment of the Belarusian-Russian Community was signed in Moscow, reporters "squeezed" everything from it to strengthen Yeltsin's image of the unifier of Russian lands. Neither did they spare praise for the recently despised "not-quite-democratic" Lukashenka. However, when the Belarusian president displayed normal human and diplomatic restraint during the heads of state summit in Moscow, all kinds of hints were voiced again to the effect that the Belarusian leader is "this kind of man...." Only one opinion is allowed among such democrats as Shevardnadze, Nazarbayev, Aliyev, and the like, just as in the old Communist Party times. Thank God, there was at least one decent journalist there — Aleksandr Nevzorov. He had two [television] programs with Lukashenka and showed the Belarusian president's real character — open and honest.

**Two Options and One Way**

We should admit that Alyaksandr Lukashenka's stance is currently the best. Yeltsin will appreciate it if he wins because he probably knows the real value of his former partners from the Communist Party Political Bureau. The other leader [Zyuganov], too, will probably appreciate it if he manages to outpace Yeltsin in the race for the presidential post.

There is no doubt that people in Belarus are watching the preelection developments in Russia attentively. Moreover, they are waiting for the results with a great deal of anxiety. This is understandable. Let us analyze the two most probable scenarios. Let us say the current host of the Kremlin will win the election by hook or by crook. What impact will this have on Belarusian-Russian relations? Undoubtedly, these relations will continue to develop along the envisioned lines. Perhaps until the euphoria of the victory ends, the development will be somewhat slower. However, given the economic condition of the two states, life itself will urge more efficient and active ties. There is no antagonistic opposition between the two presidents at this point. No matter how hard the Russian leader, spurred by zealous reformers, may try to speed up reform, he will not be able to ignore the social realities and people's demands to moderate his fervor. Meanwhile, this will be a straight road to the unification of our economies. After some time, Belarusian-Russian cooperation will undoubtedly produce results. Moreover, most probably these results will be more evident on the Belarusian side.

The other scenario envisions the victory of communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov. In this case, two factors — economic and political — will have to be considered separately. The economic situation will remain unchanged because all the threats of going backwards are merely a bluff. Even under the communists' rule Russia's economy will be moving ahead. There might be certain variations and modifications, but Russia has no other choice. In this case, all Belarusian-Russian activities will be coordinated.

There may be certain nuances in the political aspect. However, the advocates of the opinion that Zyuganov's victory will be fatal for Lukashenka do not sound persuasive. Those advocates claim that after Zyuganov comes to power the Belarusian communists' aspirations will grow, too, and the communists, given "fraternal assistance" from their Russian colleagues, may try to remove Belarus's current head of state from the political arena. Despite the apparent logic of this theory, its advocates get caught in a vicious circle. The Russian Communists would have to separate themselves from left radicals and, taught by bitter experience, would start cooperating with pragmatists and realists to solidify the achievements. The Belarusian communists emerged on the political arena mainly because they borrowed many of Lukashenka's slogans. Lukashenka could easily win back the initiative from them, if only he had to. It seems more probable that the communists would significantly strengthen their position in control bodies, primarily ministries and other state posts. To be honest, they hold enough posts now. For Belarus as a whole, this scenario would be normal and quite acceptable.

However, there is another danger for the president: In the event of Zyuganov's victory the Belarusian communists may want more than better posts and by the fall, may join the ranks of fighters, banded together with trade unions and other forces which oppose the current administration. This kind of confrontation may be born in the Supreme Soviet, which is the most open public force at this point. It would be naive to believe that the Supreme Soviet will not try to play a greater role than it does now. Serious differences are maturing in the parliament which may either ruin it or win for it a dominating role in state politics. It is hard to say what will prevail. It is only clear that Alyaksandr Lukashenka will not remain a passive observer.

### Time To Disperse Clouds

Two conclusions may be made based on recent developments. First, the "Belarusian factor" in the Russian election race turned out to be well-balanced and honest, which made Belarus virtually immune to all kinds of political insinuations. No matter who will win in the Kremlin, Belarus's position will remain quite strong, even if someone from the Russian president's retinue chooses to "punish" Lukashenka for inadequate contribution to Yeltsin's victory. Every sober-minded politician realizes that Alyaksandr Lukashenka did much more toward this end than, for instance, Ukrainian President Kuchma or other CIS leaders, who voiced their support for democratic reform in Russia.

The second conclusion is: Social tension in Belarus will not subside, regardless of the outcome of the Russian election. The global problems currently faced by Russia and Belarus cannot be removed even by such important events as the election of another president. Judging by everything, we will continue to experience problems and have political squabbles. There are no volcanoes whose lava has a healing effect on either bodies or souls. We are a woken volcano on the fringe between old and new times. It is too late to think whether this is good or bad. We should disperse with clouds, live, and work.

### Belarus: Supreme Soviet Chairman Criticizes President, Aides

*LD0406170496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, June 4 (Interfax-West) — Semyon Sharetskiy, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, has accused Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his aides of activities incompatible with democracy and a democratic state.

"The president's headquarters try to act as the Politburo of the Soviet times and the president himself, as the general secretary," Sharetskiy told parliament.

In the five months since it has been convened the Supreme Soviet has been trying to find common ground with the executive branch and the president without being engaged in petty politicking, he said. The MPs wanted "to enable the popularly elected President Lukashenka to make good on his electoral pledges to pull the republic out of the economic crisis and stabilize the political situation," Sharetskiy said.

In doing so, the Supreme Soviet has been trying to help the president to break away from totalitarian socialism and decide "what kind of society we want in the republic," he said.

The economic basis cannot be reformed while maintaining the old political superstructure, Sharetskiy believes. He said that changing the system of state management was all-important. In particular, the government should play a more significant role in governing the country, Sharetskiy argued.

The government is not now an independent entity because it is manipulated by the presidential headquarters, he said. Sharetskiy was surprised that the government cannot even send bills to parliament.

With all his respect for the head of state, Sharetskiy believes that the Constitution rather than a personality must be the core of the authority in the country.

Sharetskiy called on the MPs to amend as soon as possible the legislation making it possible to make officials guilty of violating the Constitution accountable before the law.

### Belarus: Chairman Addresses Supreme Soviet

*LD0406220096 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet continued in Minsk today. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Today at 1600 the first session of the Belarusian parliament resumed its work. The deputies returned to the issue they were considering last Friday. Let me remind you that on Friday they were discussing the election of two members to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. A difficult situation had developed around the election. Initially the two vacancies were contested by four deputies: Leanid Sechka, Semyon Domash, Myacheslaw Gryb, and Vasil Sakovich. However, on Friday they were joined by Ivan Tsyareshka, Anatol Malafeyew, and Vyachaslaw Kebich. The parliament was not ready for such a turn of events and the issue was postponed until today. However, before the discussion of the issue began, Semyon Sharetskiy, the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, made an address:

[Sharetskiy, in Russian] In several days it will be five months since the start of the work of the 13th Supreme Soviet. In our opinion, the time has not been wasted. We have got to know one another and applied ourselves to one of the most difficult functions — that of the Supreme Soviet. We have discussed and passed the budget. We have passed a number of laws that may have seemed secondary, but were in effect important and sometimes urgent. The most important part of our work was probably that our Supreme Soviet, being a political body and, therefore, being in politics, has managed to avoid any political games.

Over this period, each of you has had a different attitude toward my work and has made different assessments. Please believe my sincerity when I say that I have made every effort to cooperate with each of you because my motto has always been: A leader, too, is allowed a mistake but is not allowed to sulk or, moreover, harbor rancor against those working with him.

I would like to compliment the Supreme Soviet on having made, during that period, every effort to reach understanding with the executive and, first, with the Belarusian president. With this purpose, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet used the following three circumstances as guidance. First, the president had been elected by the people and during his election campaign had announced more than once that he would take every measure to lead the country out of the crisis and to stabilize the situation in society. Voting for him, people believed him, and, therefore, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet considered it necessary to provide him with everything he required to enable him to carry out his promises. Second, the Presidium made an allowance for the fact that, over several months, the 12th Supreme Soviet continued to function but in effect did not do any more work. A great deal of barriers had accumulated between the legislative and executive branches over that period. Mutual understanding is needed in order to remove those barriers. Third, the president, who was elected by the will of people, is a very young politician for his position both in terms of age and experience, which he has noted more than once himself. That is why in his actions and even more in his statements there is a lot of impulsiveness, distrust of others, desire to control everything, and an over ambitious assessment of his abilities.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has sincerely aspired to help him to eliminate those shortcomings. We have tried to take upon ourselves a certain share of the burden and to bring the country, with him, out of the crisis in which it had found itself as a result of the defectiveness of the system of totalitarian socialism and which had been made worse by the negative consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and, later, the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

As for ways of constructive cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, we believe that another attempt should be made to find ways to interact between the two branches of power in the search for an answer to the most important question: which social model do we want to have as a result of the reforms?

In this connection, at a meeting of the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the deputy chairmen, the chairmen of the standing commissions of economic orientation, and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet commission for international issues, it was decided to turn once more to my idea: To join under the president the efforts of the Supreme Soviet, the Cabinet of Ministers, and scientists and experienced industrialists in order to solve the above problem. Today, from this high rostrum, I am once more appealing to the president of the Republic of Belarus, the leadership of the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank, the heads of other state and public organizations, Belarusian scientists and experienced industrialists, as well as representatives of international economic and financial organizations, and scientists from other countries with rich experience in this field to take part in this work vital for Belarus. I also want to urge the leadership of all the political parties and movements, to take, regardless of their ideology, a most active part in this work because we are all united by anxiety for the future of our beloved motherland, the Republic of Belarus. Therefore, let us sit down around the same table and, through constructive polemics, try to find as quickly as possible an optimum solution to this global problem. The political situation in society, which has lately become very tense, also requires mutual consultations among all the political forces. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet is particularly concerned that a considerable proportion of young people are becoming involved in confrontations with the authorities. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has a proposal: There should a roundtable meeting as soon as possible with representatives of all the political and public organizations, representatives of the president's administration and the Cabinet of Ministers, the Prosecutor General, the minister of justice, and the ministers of the force ministries. We must stop seeing enemies in those with different views and learn to listen to them. At the same time I am far from suggesting that force should not be used sometimes to establish order. It should be used indeed, but it is necessary to suppress only those people who present a danger to society and not those who are campaigning against something or expressing discontent with something. Moreover, we have more than enough reasons here to be discontent.

On Wednesday at 1000 I will meet the prime minister, the head of the president's administration, and the chairman of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions. We will try to discuss once more the situation that is developing in the economy and the political situation in the country. After the completion of the work of the provisional commission of the Supreme Soviet, which has already been set up and is now being formed [as heard], we will invite the minister of internal affairs to the Supreme Soviet. Yesterday, while talking to me, he suggested that himself. I think that it would not be superfluous if the prosecutor general was also invited to listen to the report of the commission.

If the president and the Cabinet of Ministers fail to give a positive answer to the proposal on joint work on the concept of social development, the Supreme Soviet will, of course, have to take upon itself the initiative of developing the ways to solve the economic crisis and developing the concept of the development of our society as a whole. We are required to do so by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, which, among other main functions of the Supreme Soviet, specifies that we should define the main directions of the internal and external policy of the Republic of Belarus. By the way, in our opinion the 13th Supreme Soviet is ready to undertake this task, which we could not have said even a month ago.

If we had undertaken this task then, as some deputies urged the Supreme Soviet to do, we would have failed. The situation is different now after the deputies have acquired some experience in legislative work and the standing commissions of the economic orientation have drawn up some drafts on how to bring the economy out of the crisis and submitted many draft economic laws to the Supreme Soviet.

I cannot see any other way of developing our Republic that would take it out of the crisis apart from creating a market economy with a social orientation, which would be based on a sensible combination between state and private ownership, freedom of enterprise and social protection of people by the state.

Meanwhile, the postponement of reforms is only aggravating the crisis. For example, two years ago in agriculture there were only 20 hopelessly bankrupt farms. Now there are 500. Here is a fresh fact. Today, a telegram came from the minister of agriculture and food of Belarus in which he is asking ardently that urgent measures be taken to convert funds for purchasing grain and nitrate and phosphorous fertilizers. Otherwise, pigs will begin to starve to death literally in two days. I cannot see, respected colleagues, any alternatives to a multiparty political system based on the pluralism of opinions that would ensure that each person will have conditions for free personal development, including freedom of religion. By the way, I am seriously unhappy with the fact that religious activists are sometimes drawn into politics. I cannot see an alternative to a law-governed state in which the law would rule supreme and the whole social system would be supported, not by just one branch of power or, moreover, one person, but by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus. I would like to stress here that everybody should be equal before the law and nobody should be allowed to break the law. We must, as soon as possible, adopt a law that will envisage a most severe punishment for violating or ignoring the law. I am convinced that all the deputies, scientists, and industrialists have sensible ideas on this subject. We must, therefore, compare our opinions and find an optimum.

[Correspondent] After the address of Semyon Sharetskiy, the deputies discussed every candidate for the two vacancies in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. At the evening sitting the deputies heard presentations by four candidates and listened to their supporters and opponents. The other three will have their turn tomorrow. [end recording]

## Belarus: BELAPAN Reports on Sharetskiy Address to Parliament

*WS0506082796 Minsk BELAPAN in English*
*0650 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 4 June — "The Supreme Soviet will have to take the initiative for lifting the national economy out of crisis levels into its own hands," Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetskiy said while speaking at the June 4 plenary sitting of Parliament. In his opinion, it is impossible to change the economic basis without reforming the political superstructure. Judging from the present political situation, the Administration of the President aspires to act as a Communist Party Political Bureau in Soviet times, and the President as a Communist Party General Secretary, Mr Sharetskiy said. The parliamentary leader stressed that it is essential to reform state government. In order to show its present unsoundness Mr Sharetskiy cited the example of the Cabinet of Ministers, a key body of government the role of which is being depreciated. It even has no right to legislative motion.

In spite of all my respect for the Chief of State, Mr Sharetskiy said, "the trunk of power in the Republic must be the Constitution, not a person." In this regard he called upon legislators to immediately adopt a package of bills aimed the establishment of an awesome responsibility for the violation and non-observance of the Constitution by state officials. Mr Sharetskiy also pointed out that during the five months of its existence the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation tried to find a way towards constructive cooperation and create all possible conditions for the President to fulfill his preelection economic promises. According to the parliamentary leader, the Supreme Soviet tried to help the executive power and the Chief of State lift the country out of the economic crisis and find an answer to the question as to which model of state system Belarus should choose.

In Mr Sharetskiy's opinion, the Republic should have a market but socially orientated economy in which various forms of ownership could get on with each other. Delay in reform in this direction aggravate the crisis situation, he said. Mr Sharetskiy also pointed out that the deepening of economic integration between Belarus and Russia is an objective and necessary process, but Belarus should remain a sovereign state and its relations with Russia should not be opposed to relations with other countries.

## Belarus: Presidential Edict on Regulating Banking Activities

*WS0406124896 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 28 May 96 p 1*

[Edict no. 209 issued by Belarusian President Lukashenka in Minsk on 24 May: "On Measures To Regulate Banking Activities in the Republic of Belarus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To ensure economic stability, strengthen the monetary-credit system, protect the rights of citizens and the interests of creditors and depositors, as well as taking into account the inadequate legislative regulation of banking activities, the worsening crime situation in the credit and hard currency spheres and violations of law in the process of establishing commercial banks, I hereby resolve:

1.1. Salaries and material motivation of employees of banks, as well as other social benefits, shall be paid within limits determined by the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus in accordance with the Single Wage Scale of Employees of the Republic of Belarus and with other enforceable acts.

Employees of loss-making banks shall be paid salaries in accordance with the Single Wage Scale of Employees of the Republic of Belarus, and shall not receive supplementary payments (differentials) to salaries, monetary awards, and other additional payments from the expenditure fund or the economic stimulation fund.

1.2. Bank expenditures on the construction of buildings or grounds, the acquisition of equipment, machinery, and vehicles, as well as other components of capital stock, shall be made solely from profits earned by banks after the payment of all taxes, fees, and other mandatory payments to the budget and to nonbudgetary funds (pure profit).

If the aforementioned expenditures will not be financed from pure profit, they shall be regarded as concealment of profits and those guilty shall be held responsible in accordance with the legislation.

1.3. Assurances and guarantees on credit agreements shall be secured by guarantors' property.

1.4. Bank losses shall be covered by moneys taken from the economic motivation fund.

1.5. Banks are obliged to inform the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus about every credit that exceeds $10,000 and about the observance of commitments on such credits.

1.6. Bank branches shall begin and terminate operations solely on the basis of written permissions issued by the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus.

1.7. The National Bank of Belarus has the right:

— to assume temporary management of banks and undertake other measures to stabilize their financial situation if those banks operate at a loss for more than three months, or if they are insolvent or threatened by insolvency and bankruptcy;

— to impose fines of 50-200 minimum wages on bank officials guilty of calculating and (or) paying, before due date, interest on deposits made by legal and physical persons, as well as of paying higher interest to bank employees.

2. By 15 June 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the National Bank, and the Prosecutor's Office shall complete the inspection of the legality of the transfer of state property to commercial banks established on the basis of institutions subordinated to the USSR Prombudbank [Industrial Construction Bank], the USSR Agroprombank [Agro-Industrial Bank], and the USSR Zhilsotsbank [bank for financing housing and social programs], and shall undertake measures to compensate losses inflicted on the Republic of Belarus.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, jointly with the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus shall:

3.1. Determine the real share of the state and of legal entities established on the basis of state property in the charter funds of banks, taking into account the increase in the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar which occurred since the day state property was included in charter funds.

Within two months, those commercial banks whose charter funds include such deposits shall:

— determine the volume of charter funds and shareholders' share in them, in accordance with the real share of the state and of legal entities established on the basis of state property;

— submit documents necessary for the state registration of changes and additions in their constituent documents, as well as the registration of their shares. The registration shall be carried out by the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus and the Finance Minister Securities Inspectorate, without levying any commission.

3.2. [I resolve to] Approve the list of banks authorized to service state programs and to open deposits of state bodies and legal entities established on the basis of state property.

— by 1 October 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, jointly with ministries, other central administrative bodies, and local executive committees shall undertake measures to increase the share of the state and of legal entities established on the basis of state property in the charter funds of those banks;

— the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, jointly with the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus shall be represented in the managing bodies of the aforementioned banks. Their representatives shall have the right to suspend the implementation of decisions made by other supreme managing bodies, if such decisions may inflict material losses on the banks or the state, and until disputes are resolved by a general meeting of shareholders.

3.3. — the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, jointly with the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus shall expedite the establishment of the Finance Ministry's Main State Treasury and the drafting of its regulations.

4. The National Bank of the Republic of Belarus shall:

4.1. — carry out the reregistration of banks, aimed at bringing their activities in line with the current edict;

— conduct the reassessment of qualifications of managers and chief accountants of banks and their branches, as well as to ensure the training of the banking sector employees;

4.2. The draft banking code of the Republic of Belarus shall include provisions which would ensure the protection of deposits made in the form of citizens' or state property into the banks' charter funds;

4.3. Within a two-month period of time the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus shall compile, using the State Register of Taxpayers, the computer list of unrepaid credits, complete with the list of debtors. Banks and other credit-issuing institutions shall be granted access to this data on the basis of official permissions issued by the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus.

5. Within a one-month period of time, commercial banks shall present the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus with a plan of measures aimed at improving their financial situation and eliminating the reasons for their losses. Primarily, this shall be achieved through the reduction of nonproductive expenditures, as well as the expenditures on salaries for employees and their material motivation.

6. The current edict shall be put into force on the day of publication.

[Signed] President of the Republic of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka.
Minsk, 24 May 1996.

## Azerbaijan

### Azerbaijan: Baku, Multinational Consortium Sign Oil Contract

*LD0506084396 Tehran IRNA in English*
*0744 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, June 5, IRNA — The contract for developing the Shah-Deniz oil field in the Caspian Sea was signed here Tuesday between the Azerbaijan Republic and a multinational consortium that includes an Iranian company, the Oil Industries and Engineering Company (OIEC).

Azeri President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan in his speech stressed the importance of Tehran's participation in the contract, terming Iran a friendly country and expressing hope that Tehran-Baku ties would expand.

On the cooperation of the two countries in digging oil wells in the Caspian Sea, he considered the signing of the accord as a new stage in mutual ties.

Referring to the potentials of the OIEC, the head of the company, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi, expressed hope that the deal would serve as a step toward the expansion of Tehran and Baku ties.

British Petroleum (BP) and Norway's Statoil each have 25.5 percent of the consortium's shares. France's Elf Aquitaine, Russia's Lukoil and Iran's OIEC each have 10 percent while a Turkish oil company has nine percent.

The contract has been signed for a period of 30 years and the first phase of the project is scheduled to be exploited within three to four years following the implementation of the accord.

The Shah-Deniz oil field, 80 km southeast of here, has been assessed to have reserves of more than 100 million tons of crude oil and 400,000 million cubic meters of natural gas.

Iran's ambassador to Baku, in an interview with IRNA, said that the OIEC's participation in the deal would have no effect on Iran's stand concerning the legal regime of the Caspian Sea.

He said the Islamic republic is for the determination of the legal regime of the Caspian on the basis of an agreement reached among the five littoral countries.

### Azerbaijan: International Oil Companies To Develop Caspian Oilfield

*NC0406172296 Baku TURAN in English*
*1022 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/04.06.96/TURAN—Contract for the development of "Shah-Deniz" perspective structure in the Azeri sector of the Caspian was signed today.

The following companies are involved to the contract: the British-Norwegian alliance BP/Statoil (25.5 + 25.5) percent, Azeri SOCAR [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan republic]—10 percent, Russian LUKoil—10 percent, French "Elf"—10 percent, Iranian OIEC [as received; NIOC—National Iranian Oil Company]—10 percent and Turkish TPAO [Turkish Petroleum Company]—9 percent.

Shah-Deniz is in the southern part of the Azeri sector of the Caspian and refers to gas-condensate structures. The area of "Shah-Deniz" is about 280 square kilometres. The experts consider that more than 400 billion cubic feet of gas and more than 200 million tons of gas condensate and oil has been concentrated in "Shah-Deniz."

However, only one well the depth with the depth 3,152 metres had been drilled here. The northern part of the field is shallow — the thickness of water is up to 50 metres—the southern part up to 475 metres. The investments will total $4 billion. Azerbaijan will receive bonus totalling $250 million.

It is the third consortium for the development of the offshore fields in the Azeri sector of the Caspian created over the last two years.

### Azerbaijan: Aliyev Remarks on Developing Onshore, Offshore Oil Activity

*NC0406133096 Baku TURAN in English*
*1300 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/04.06.96/TURAN—Today there was the ceremony of opening of III International exhibition-conference "Caspian Oil & Gas-96". Opening the exhibition President Aliyev mentioned that the number of participants of the exhibition testifies to growing interest to Azerbaijan and his oil reserves. "If last year 160 companies from 15 countries participated at the exhibition, this year 190 companies from 20 countries take part at the exhibition", President Aliyev said.

Azeri President said for the first time development of offshore oil-fields started in Azerbaijan and continuation of these works, in particular signing of new contract on "Shah-Deniz" deposit, shows that future of Azerbaijan is connected with offshore oil production. "Development of Caspian offshore and onshore oil deposits has become possible as a result of gaining of independence. Only independence has given us the possibility to produce and sell our own oil", Azeri President noted.

Touching upon the contract concerning Shah-Deniz deposit, President Aliyev noted that this is the third oil consortium and it is notable that number of foreign states attracted in development of Azerbaijan's oil reserves is growing. "It is very good. We will further continue this course", President Aliyev said.

### Azerbaijan: Georgian Official Hails Success of Baku-Supsa Pipeline

*NC0406174996 Baku TURAN in English 1221 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/04.06.96/TURAN—President of Georgia's Oil Corporation, Giya Chanturia, said today during opening of III International exhibition "Caspian Oil & Gas 96" that future of Georgia is connected with the future of Azerbaijan. "We understand the necessity to make everything to successfully implement Azerbaijan's oil projects. He is satisfied with the fact that first cargoes for construction of Baku-Supsa oil pipeline have been already transported. Chanturia noted this is the beginning of new stage in our cooperation. Chanturia also said interests of many states are crossing in Azerbaijan and that is why approach to regional cooperation must be very correct. As to his opinion, political stability, acquires great significance in this aspect, in particular Declaration on Peaceful Caucasus, must be the basis for such stability."

### Azerbaijan: Aliyev: 'Certain Circles' in Turkey Support Armed Factions

*NC0406182296 Istanbul ZAMAN in Turkish 31 May 96 p 20*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku (A.A)

**Disrupters of Stability Are Being Protected**

President Geydar Aliyev has complained that certain circles sympathize with various persons and armed groups who are trying to disrupt stability in Azerbaijan. The "Azerbaijan-Turkey Economic Cooperation Conference," which has been organized by the Economic Research Foundation, has begun in Baku. President Aliyev said that his administration has restored stability and ended internal confusion. However, he stressed that certain circles in Turkey continue to sympathize with various groups. He asserted: "Such matters harm the friendly relations between the two countries."

**Turkish Businessmen Encouraged**

President Aliyev said that the economic relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan must be improved. Asserting that the Turkish businessmen must contribute to Azerbaijan's economy while they carry on their trade activities, he said: "The Turkish businessmen must give priority to investing in Azerbaijan and then consider making profits from their business activities. That is important for both countries from the political and economic viewpoints. The economic relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are not at the level of their political relations."

## Georgia

### Georgia: Armenian President Visits, Agreements Signed

*NC0406201796 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The ARMENPRES special correspondent reports from the Georgian capital that an Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan arrived in Tbilisi on an official visit on 4 June. Bilateral contacts took place in the morning with the participation of Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan, Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili, and the mayors of Tbilisi and Yerevan.

The Armenian and Georgian presidents Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Eduard Shevardnadze held a private meeting in the afternoon. This was followed by high-level Armenian-Georgian talks. The sides examined a broad range of issues related to bilateral cooperation as well as a number of regional and international problems.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Eduard Shevardnadze underlined the fundamental significance of the bilateral agreement on friendship, cooperation, and mutual security between the two neighboring countries for the further deepening of future cooperation.

Eight documents on Armenian-Georgian cooperation in various spheres as well as a joint communique were signed in the Georgian capital.

After the signing of the documents, the Armenian and Georgian presidents held a joint news conference.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Eduard Shevardnadze visited the patriarchate in the evening, where they met the Catholicos of All Georgia, His Holiness Elijah II.

The presidents of the two countries met representatives of the Armenian community in Georgia at the (Tateashvili) Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater. This was followed by a concert.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to Georgia will continue tomorrow.

## Georgia: Government, Armenia Sign 10 Cooperation Agreements

*LD0406163296 Tbilisi BGI in Russian*
*1535 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] Armenia and Georgia signed 10 documents on 4 June. The signing took place after the expanded meeting of the delegations of the two countries, which followed a one-to-one meeting between the Armenian and Georgian presidents. The documents include agreements on legal aid; on promotion and protection of investments; on the establishment of bilateral teams on financial and industrial issues; on the international motor transport links; on trade and economic cooperation in the agroindustrial complex; and others.

## Georgia: Official Says Armenian Troops 'Encroaching' on Georgia

*LD0506100296 Moscow INTERFAX in English*
*0934 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, June 5 (Interfax) — A Georgian official declared Tuesday that Armenian troops are encroaching upon Georgian territory, putting a damper on Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's friendly official visit.

Ter-Petrosyan met Georgian parliamentary leaders Wednesday. There has never been any ethnic or political discord between the Georgian and Armenian peoples, he told them, and this is a good basis for closer ties in the future.

But Levan Mamaladze, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's official representative in the Kvemo Kartli region in southern Georgia, said Tuesday that Armenian interior ministry troops have penetrated 4 kilometers into Georgian territory in the Marneul border region.

Talks should be held on this issue at the highest level, Mamaladze said.

Meanwhile, 30 Georgian truck-drivers picketed the Armenian Embassy Tuesday, demanding the return of several trucks confiscated for improper documents.

Police moved the protesters away from the embassy and re-enforced security on Wednesday.

Ter-Petrosyan was to visit the embassy June 5, but this was cancelled.

The Armenian delegation along with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze set off instead for the Akhalkalak region, which has a high ethnic Armenian population.

## Georgia: Abkhazia Denies Sheltering Basayev Group

*LD0406142396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English*
*1401 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By Anatoly Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 4 (Itar-Tass) — Abkhazia, the breakaway enclave of Georgia, denies hosting Chechen rebels led by Shamil Basayev.

"There are no Chechen fighters in the territory of Abkhazia," the security service chief Astamur Tarba told Itar-Tass by the telephone from Sukhumi on Tuesday.

In a comment on media reports that Basayev had led his group to Abkhazia, Tarba said "an operative check has shown that representatives of illegal armed formations were not and are not at present either on recreation or in the republic's medical institutions."

The commander of Abkhazia-stationed Russian border detachment, Colonel Oleg Rubtsov, has also denied that Basayev's rebels had crossed the Russian border with Abkhazia.

"We have not registered a single case of militants' crossing the state border," he said.

Reports of Georgian television alleged that the Basayev group had gone to Sukhumi and other cities of Abkhazia.

Some reports claim the rebels have come for a breather or medical treatment, while other contend that part of the Basayev group are going to settle down in Abkhazia for permanent residence.

The Basayev group fought on the side of Abkhazia in 1992-93 during its bloody conflict with Georgia.

## Georgia: Chechen Terrorists Reportedly Arrive in Abkhazia for R&R

*LD0406125296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English*
*1234 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, June 4 (Itar-Tass) — Militants who are members of terrorist Shamil Basayev's hit group have reportedly arrived in Sukhumi and some other cities of Abkhazia for rest and recreation, according to Georgian television.

Some sources say the militants plan to stay in Abkhazia as permanent residents.

Chechen militants were also reported to have spent some time in Sukhumi, Gagra and some other parts of the Abkhazian republic last year and early this year before returning to Chechnya to engage in further fighting against the federal security forces.

The Basayev armed group had fought on the side of the Abkhaz separatists in their war against Georgia in 1992-1993. In the spring of 1994, six months after the fighting had died down in Abkhazia, Shamil Basayev made [as received] a 18-year-old Abkhazian girl from the Gudauty district.

According to informed sources, it is not ruled out that Basayev himself will arrive in Abkhazia soon.

## Estonia

### Estonia: Foreign Minister: Baltics Concerned Over CFE Revisions

*WS0506085396 Tallinn BNS in English*
*1900 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, June 4, BNS — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas said at the meeting of the North-Atlantic Cooperation Council in Berlin Tuesday that the U.S.-Russian agreement pertaining to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty had caused concern in the Baltic states.

Kallas also underlined the positive effect of the Partnership for Peace program and cooperation in the NATO cooperation council framework, the Estonian Foreign Ministry press service informed BNS.

"The Partnership for Peace program is an important intermediary stage for countries aspiring for wider and closer cooperation with NATO," Kallas said.

Informing interested countries of alterations in the CFE agreements, U.S. Defense Department representatives in Berlin underlined the pressing need for such an agreement.

The Estonian Ambassador to the OSCE, Vaino Reinart, Tuesday told BNS that Estonia had been full informed of the contents of the agreement between the United States and Russia on Saturday.

"In going over the contents of the agreement, no other alterations damaging to Estonian security were discovered, besides the already reported increase in the number of armored vehicles in the Russian Pskov region from 180 to 600," Reinart said.

"It is a totally different matter that the Pskov Region has now been excluded from the so-called flanking limitations territory. As a result we may border directly on the Moscow military district in the future," Reinart said.

The alterations to the CFE treaty took effect provisionally as of May 31, but will become effective conclusively if by Dec 15 the 30 signatories of the treaty deposit with the Dutch government the alterations' ratification documents.

### Estonia: Russian Foreign Policy Expert Views Relations With Tallinn

*WS0506091396 Tallinn ETA in English*
*0751 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From 5 June POSTIMEES, p 9; "News Bulletin" No. 108/96]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Wednesday, June 5 — POSTIMEES interviewed Deputy Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences European Institute Sergey Karaganov, described as one of the chief ideologists of Russian foreign policy.

Karaganov describes the Central and Eastern European region as one of the most stable and secure in the world and includes the Baltic states in the area. Russia is politically and economically interested in the Baltic region and hopes to see them as its strategic partners, Karaganov told POSTIMEES. He ruled out both the admission of the Baltic states to NATO and Russian aggression in the region, unless the Baltic states would attack Russia first. There is no special policy towards the Baltic states, Karaganov stated, adding that he considers the Russian-Estonian relations quite normal. The only three aspects concerning problems are the nationalist mentality of some Estonian politicians, Russia's imperialist arrogance and the situation of ethnic minorities in Estonia. (Full text of the interview will be issued in this week's INSIGHT).

### Estonia: Chinese Deputy Premier Arrives in Tallinn

*WS0506085296 Tallinn ETA in English*
*1912 GMT 4 Jun 96*

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, June 4 (ETA) - Chinese Deputy Premier Li Lanqing, who arrived at a visit to Estonia Tuesday evening, stressed in the airport the importance of friendly cooperation relations between Estonia and China.

Li Lanqing said that Estonia has achieved relatively good results in economic development and transition to market economy. There has traditionally been friendship among the nations of Estonia and China and China considers friendly cooperation relations with Estonia important.

Since the diplomatic relations were started between the two states five years ago, the leaders of both states have often visited each other and friendly cooperation relations in different fields have been successful, Li Lanqing said.

He added that the aim of his visit was deepening such contacts and further development of cooperation.

The visit of deputy chairman of Chinese State Council, Deputy Prime Minister of China Li Lanqing, will concentrate mainly on economic cooperation.

Li Lanqing is accompanied by Chinese foreign trade and economic cooperation deputy minister Sun Zhenyu [spelling of name as received], several other high Chinese officials and a group of Chinese businessmen from telecommunications company Huawei Technology Company.

During the visit Li Lanqing and Sun Zhenyu are to meet Estonian President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, Riigikogu [parliament] chairman Toomas Savi and Economy Minister Andres Lipstok.

On Wednesday Li Lanqing is to visit Estonian company RAS Estel and on Thursday RAS Silmet in Sillamae, where he also meets local municipality leaders.

The visit of the Chinese deputy Premier will conclude Thursday evening.

A basis for closer relations between Estonia and China was laid in 1992, when the Chinese Embassy was opened in Tallinn and Prime Minister Tiit Vahi made a visit to China. A trade and economic cooperation agreement was signed between the two states then.

China held 28th position among Estonia's foreign trade partners last year. In May 1996, 28 companies based on Chinese capital or with a stake of Chinese capital actively operated in Estonia with total capital of 14.5 million kroons. Mainly they operate in wholesale trade and catering businesses. Over a hundred Chinese companies are registered in Estonia.

## Latvia

### Latvia: Foreign Minister Comments on Security, NATO Enlargement

*LD0306192196 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[Interview with Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs by correspondent Vita Savicka on 3 June; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the United States of America and Russia on the stationing of conventional weapons in Europe concluded at the end of last week. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. It envisages a greater concentration of armed forces in Pskov Region.

Correspondent Vita Savicka has asked Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs to comment this agreement.

[Birkavs] I have known this for a long time and we have expressed our anxiety to many countries — that we are worried. Changes in the CFE [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe] Treaty are related to a greater concentration of armed forces in Pskov Region, though, of course, it is until the agreement's extension — the agreement expires this year. And it is still quite a long way to the ratification of the agreement by all the countries. However, we are raising an alarm to a certain extent. I will talk about this to Warren Christopher in Berlin because a meeting is planned for us. And, I do not think that the agreement is at the expense of the Baltics. I would also like to dispel the fears as if the Americans and Russians would have signed a secret agreement. However, the real concentration of armed forces in Pskov Region — if the CFE Treaty is amended in this way — will be a real possibility why Russia should keep a large military force at the Baltic borders.

[Savicka] What is Russia's argument in this case? Why should the presence of the military forces be increased in this region?

[Birkavs] This argument is not — at least at the official talks and I also think practically — it is not so much related to the Baltics as to the equalization of the armed forces stationed on the northern and southern flanks. And no one objects to Russia having — well, in any case, does not object in the north, because southern states, for their part, have, of course, objections to the concentration of larger military forces there. And Turkey has in the past expressed to me its anxiety.

As the CFE Treaty was signed when we were occupied, we are not a signatory to it. We have not joined it now either and the agreement is in general very fragile. This is exactly why this serious game is going on with Russia to achieve the continued existence of the agreement, because if it expires, if it is not extended, in that case we will be even in an worse situation.

[Savicka] But how would you explain the stance of the United States when they in fact agree — knowing what relations between Russia and Latvian are like at the moment?

In this case it is undoubtedly not so much to do with the Baltics, as it is to do with the preservation of the agreement. Therefore Baltic interests — it would be possible to say to a certain extent — are being sacrificed for common good. And our task is to succeed in not losing our security as a result of it — because to a certain extent it increases threats; although, I never speak about threats, rather I speak about stability. And it is possible that the issue of stability in Europe is the most decisive point as to why the Americans have agreed to sign this memorandum. However, we must counterbalance it in some way and I have already had earlier a number of plans how to use the situation if the CFE Treaty is signed and continues to be in force and the concentration of military forces in Pskov Region is increasing — how to counterbalance it. And it has not been discussed exhaustively. Therefore, one should not perhaps speak about it widely because my main task is to achieve that this region and our state are stable from the point of view of security.

[Savicka] And you still do not want to answer the question whether that could mean that some additional security guarantees will be sought — could some security agreement be concluded soon?

[Birkavs] We are looking for security guarantees all the time, because we do not have any security guarantees. Therefore, I speak about NATO so specifically. Therefore, I am so specifically in favor of the European Union, which gives at least soft security guarantees. And of course we will be seeking additional opportunities to use this situation for strengthening our security.

[Savicka] It became known this morning that NATO has passed a resolution to carry out reforms in the NATO structures. That would allow European member states to carry out independent military operations as well. Such a step is being made for the first time since NATO was founded. Do you not see in this connection some greater security for Latvia? How would you generally comment this step to reform NATO?

[Birkavs] NATO itself has several problems. One problem is how to expand, because it is not really clear to them to the end. And the second thing is how to change internally their own command structure in the process of enlargement. They have now got down to internal reforms and this is the first step. Well, NATO has always been notable for very carefully considered steps, weighing up all political consequences and to a certain extent this step could be considered as a step in the direction of both enlargement and stability and perhaps new security aspects.

### Latvia: U.N. Advisor Praises Latvia's Human Rights Record

*WS0306112896 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, May 31, BNS — The special adviser to the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Brian Burdekin, Friday highly evaluated Latvia's model for effective solution of human rights issues, BNS was told in the Foreign Ministry's press center.

Burdeking voiced the opinion during a meeting with Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs.

The guest, however, expressed concern over separate norms of the bill on the State Human Rights Bureau, which could impose threat to effectivity of the bureau functioning. The bill is being discussed by the parliament at the moment. Burdekin said that passing of the law in its present form would be against Latvia's interests.

Burdekin and Birkavs tackled U.N. activities concerning human rights and evaluated Latvia's performance in this sphere.

The U.N. representative positively evaluated Latvia's achievments in human rights sphere after the 50 years of Soviet occupation. He said that Latvia is following the recommendations of the Vienna World Human Rights Conference, has passed the human rights protection and promotion program and has set up the State Human Rights Bureau.

### Latvia: Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Christopher

*LD0406122696 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0901 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Berlin yesterday evening. That was a scheduled meeting of the head of the U.S. State Department with foreign ministers of [words indistinct] Central and East European countries. [?The foreign ministers of the Baltic states] suggested at the meeting that a memorandum of understanding signed between the United States and Russia should be discussed. The memorandum envisages an increase in the number of Russian military forces and weapons in Pskov region.

The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] treaty has been created to equalize the presence of weapons on the northern and southern flanks.

Before his departure for Berlin on 3 June, the Latvian foreign minister described on Latvian radio the agreement, which has been concluded and which has still to be ratified [words indistinct] CFE [words indistinct], as a sacrifice of Baltic interests to common good.

This morning, Birkavs said the following about the results of yesterday's talks with Warren Christopher, the head of the U.S. State Department.

[Begin Birkavs recording] This was the sixth meeting, which apart from the foreign ministers of the Baltic states, also gathered foreign ministers of Central and East European countries, in short, all those who want to join NATO. The U.S. side this time entrusted me with the honor to speak on behalf of all the countries. During the talks we also touched on the issue of the CFE Treaty, which to a certain extent has probably already caused anxiety among the Latvian public.

I am going to another meeting at which we will specifically be briefed by the U.S. leadership on how it has been decided, what has been decided, [words indistinct] been decided. It should be said that the first reaction was the following: The agreement is good and there is nothing for you to fear. However, nothing else could have been expected then. Our task, in my opinion, is now a little different — not to listen to words of consolation or praise as to how good the agreement is, but rather — to find out specifically what further actions could be because the prospect that according to this agreement there could be considerably more armored vehicles in Pskov region — not the number so far, well, the total number is in fact almost four times larger — and that of course worries us.

The Foreign Ministry has already prepared its statement and at the moment it is in a completely calm tone because one should not act hastily, rather benefit for Latvia should be drawn from this situation so that we are compensated for the appearance in our border regions — or the prospect of the appearance of an increased number of military personnel. [end recording]

### Latvia: Cevers on NATO Expansion, Partnership for Peace

*LD0406154296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvia's participation in the peacekeeping forces and the Partnership for Peace program will be taken into account in the decision on the expansion of the NATO alliance; this was the view expressed in Berlin today at the meeting of foreign miisters of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council by Associate Prime Minister Ziedonis Cevers. In his opinion the most valuable aspect of the Partnership for Peace for a country is that of security. At present 33 Latvian soliders are part of the Implementation Force carrying out the peace mission in Bosnia, and Latvians will continue to take part in the NATO operations. In this way our country will show its readiness to be involved in strengthening European security.

### Latvia: President: NATO 'Sole Organization' To Guarantee Security

*LD0406174096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Guntis Ulmanis told Swedish Prime Minister Goran Perssen in Riga Monday that the Baltic countries regard NATO as the sole organization which could guarantee their security, the presidential press service reports.

Ulmanis said that the Baltic countries call for collective responsibility in maintaining the region's security.

Whoever is elected Latvian president, the setting up of a European security system and integration into the European Union will remain the country's priorities, he said.

Perssen told him that Latvia's application for NATO membership will be fully supported by Sweden.

The North Atlantic Alliance cannot expand in a way leaving the Baltic countries in between. If Latvia's security if threatened, this will affect us, too," Perssen said.

"Europe should understand that security is indivisible. Sweden and Finland cannot guarantee security to the Baltic countries, this should be guaranteed for the entire continent," he believes.

"Every country should take its own security steps. We know that Latvia wants to join NATO, respect this desire and will help it join the alliance," Perssen said.

Also Monday Perssen met with his Latvian counterpart Andris Skele.

The two prime ministers discussed several issues, not all of them pleasant, Skele told a joint news conference after the talks.

"Friends must be outspoken with one another to further mutual understanding and avoid complications," Skele said.

The meeting covered Latvia's possible membership in the European Union and NATO and bilateral issues, he said.

Skele made it clear that visas will still be required for the citizens of the two countries to travel to Latvia and Sweden.

Perssen said that special attention was given to Swedish investments in the Latvian economy.

To make visas unnecessary, Latvia must join the U.N. 1951 Convention on Refugees, impose stringent border controls and treat refugees in a civilized way, he explained.

IF Note: Latvia is keeping 157 refugees in a camp in Olaine.

Skele said that the conflict between the Riga sea port and the Latvian Swedish Baltic Terminal joint venture will be resolved in compliance with the intergovernmental treaty on protection of investments and international law.

"I will be supervising the issue," he said.

The conflict occurred when Latvia refused to abide by agreements, signed in the Soviet times, between the port and the Baltic Terminal on construction of terminals in Riga.

The Riga port managers say that the joint venture caused the port damages amounting to millions of dollars.

Persson left for home Monday night.

### Latvia: Sweden Supports Latvia's Integration Into EU, NATO

*LD0306145896 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sweden respects Latvia's integration into the European Union [EU] and NATO, and supports this choice, Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson told reporters today. He did not answer the question of whether the ratification of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees signed in Geneva in 1951 is a necessary precondition for Latvia's admission to the EU. Persson explained that it was difficult to answer this question because it is only talks on admission that have started at the moment.

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees stipulates what policy a state should have on refugees. There are still several unclear points for Latvia on the issue of refugees.

### Latvia: Riga, Warsaw Have 'Similar Foreign Policy Goals'

*WS0306111896 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 1 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, May 31, BNS — Latvia and Poland have similar foreign policy goals, Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs and Polish Senate Head Adam Struzik agreed on Friday.

BNS was told in the Foreign Ministry's press center that Birkavs and Struzik discussed promotion of security and economic cooperation in Europe, Latvia and Poland's integration into the European Union, becoming members of this organization as well as the course of the EU intergovernmental conference.

Birkavs and Struzik paid special attention to NATO expansion emphasizing its significant role in ensuring stability and development in Europe.

The Latvian foreign minister said that a clear mechanism for admission of all potential member states has to be drafted in the NATO expansion process. He noted that the Baltic countries should work out a strategy which would determine their role in the European security system.

Birkavs considers that admission of the Baltic states to NATO would be a stabilizing factor for the northeastern region of Europe.

Birkavs and Struzik also tackled their countries' practical cooperation with NATO.

The Latvian foreign minister and the Polish senate head discussed both countries' mutual relations and a possibility of signing an accord on revising the bilateral agreements, concluded between 1922 and 1938.

A protocol on cooperation between the Latvian and Polish foreign ministries could be signed on June 19 during Birkavs' visit to Warsaw.

### Latvia: Jailed Communist Chief: President Violates Constitution

*LD0406150496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, June 4 (Interfax/BNS) — Jailed presidential candidate and former head of the Latvian Communist Party Alfreds Rubiks has accused President Guntis Ulmanis of violating the constitution and "impoverishing the people."

"Those like Ulmanis spend a lot of time trying to wash off the red past, instead of worrying about their people's welfare," Rubiks, who is currently in prison for his role in the August 1991 putsch, said in an interview published in the DIENA daily newspaper Tuesday.

If he is elected, Rubiks will make the Latvian government pay for "squandering government funds and international loans."

Rubiks "remains true to the ideas of Communism," he said. These will not prevent him from carrying out his duties within the Latvian Constitution if he is elected president, he said.

The constitution "states that the president has to work for the good of his people," he explained. "It does not say how he is to do this, whether with Communist or socialist ideas, or with bourgeois ideas."

Rubiks is serving a sentence for "activities directed toward toppling the legally elected government." Deputies from the Equal Rights party in the Saejma (parliament) put forth his candidacy for the June 18 presidential elections.

Ulmanis does not intend to respond to Rubiks' accusations, the president's press staff told the Baltic News Service.

## Lithuania

### Lithuania: Foreign Minister Hands Letter on NATO to Warren Christopher

*LD0406200896 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has defined the proposals of the three Baltic presidents regarding NATO expansion as interesting and has promised to forward their letter to President Bill Clinton. The letter of the Baltic presidents' was handed in to Mr. Warren Christopher by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Povilas Gylys, in Berlin on Monday during the meeting of Central and East European countries foreign ministers with the U.S. secretary of state. In the letter, the Baltic presidents reaffirm the resolve of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to seek full membership in the European Union and NATO and proposed to address separately the issue of what particular state will be admitted to NATO and at what time.

On Berlin on Monday, Mr. Christopher reiterated NATO's position on the expansion of the alliance and said that important historical decision had been passed at the North Atlantic Council on 1 June, opening up opportunities for adjusting the internal NATO structures to the rapidly changing security situation in Europe.

### Lithuania: Parliament Approves Sending Troops to Bosnia

*LD0406222696 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday the Lithuanian parliament gave its approval to sending the 145 strong unit of Lithuanian soldiers on a six months peacemaking mission in Bosnia. The Lithuanian company, which will later make part of the joint Baltic peacekeeping battalion Baltbat, is due to leave for Bosnia this autumn.

The Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian peacekeeping battalion is to begin its independent mission in the former Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1997. Prior to that, the three Baltic companies are to gain peacekeeping experience separately as part of military units of Western states.

The Lithuanian company will replace the Lithuanian platoon which has been stationed in the northeast of Bosnia since February. The Lithuanian unit carried out their mission within the Danish battalion Danbat.

### Lithuania: Rand Study on Baltics' NATO Membership Problem

*LD0406221596 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The lack of political will in the West to admit the Baltic states into NATO prompts Lithuania not only to intensify the dialogue with the alliance, but also to increase political lobbying in the capitals of NATO countries, diplomats in Vilnius say.

On Tuesday representatives from the Rand Corporation, a U.S. strategic research center, acquainted members of the Lithuanian parliamentary national security and foreign affairs committees with a study of NATO expansion.

According to the Rand representatives, the lack of support is the main reason why the Baltic states would not be among the first to be admitted to NATO. The study of the independent U.S. strategic research center makes this factor even more important than Russia's negative reaction. According to the study, the reason for reservations shown by the West lies in low Western interests in the Baltic region, its concern about Russia's reaction, large Russian national minorities, border disputes, and problematic defense of the Baltic states due to their geographical position and their proximity to the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

However, the study stresses, although it is not likely that the Baltic states will be among the first to be admitted to NATO, the alliance sees it necessary to prepare a strategy on how the independence of the Baltic states could be enhanced and their links with the West reinforced.

### Lithuania: Government 'Carefully Studying' Changes in Arms Treaty

*LD0406210596 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lithuania is carefully studying possible changes in the 1990 treaty on conventional arms in Europe, which in the event they are adopted would allow Russia to deploy more armored hardware on borders with Latvia and Estonia.

High-ranking Lithuanian Foreign Ministry officials met with representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius. According to one Lithuanian diplomat, Lithuania is waiting for a more detailed clarification of the issue and expects to find out whether Russia's (?views on the treaty) do not pose a threat to Lithuanian security.

In their turn, Lithuanian diplomats in Washington are also seeking an explanation in the U.S. State Department.

Estonia and Latvia have earlier expressed concern over possible changes in the conventional arms agreement that might negatively affect their security.

The agreement reached by the United States and Russia on 1 June would enable Russia to station 600 units of armored vehicles instead of 180 in the district of Pskov, bordering on Estonia and Latvia.

The Lithuanian diplomats are worried that such a local increase of troops may influence the entire Baltic region.

### Lithuania: European Bank To Grant Loan for Via Baltica Project

*WS0406101696 Vilnius ELTA in English 2008 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[From "News Bulletin" No. 1023]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, June 3 ELTA — Lithuania and European Investment Bank (EIB) entered into a 20 million ECU loan agreement for Via Baltica project.

The document has been initialled in Luxembourg, where Lithuanian delegation of transport and finance officials met with EIB leaders in their headquarters. Transport Ministry Secretary Algirdas Sakalys put his signature from the Lithuanian side.

This is the first bank of four ones to support the construction of the highway very important for Lithuania, Sakalys said after coming back from Luxembourg.

The loan is to be given for 20 years with a 6-year period of easy terms. After the agreement is signed, first credits are to reach Lithuania next year, at the beginning of construction season.

The construction of the entire Via Baltica highway should cost more than $70 billion.

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